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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK

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BOSTON

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PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with name of place, if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace, of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.

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The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

6. Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR APRIL.

Frederick E. Burnham, First Prize.
Florence L. Brackett, Second Prize.
Harriet W. Seaver, Third Prize.
Sarah M. Maverick, Fourth Prize.
Zathya R. Harris, Fifth Prize.

FORGING THE FETTERS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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A DISPATCH was received by the chief of the detective bureau in Chicago, stating that the Dunham brothers, two of the shrewdest and most desperate bank burglars in the country, had left New York on the midnight express, with through tickets for the Metropolis of the West.

"Put one of your best men on their track," read the message, "and have him 'shadow' them night and day; they have not left the city for nothing."

Dudley Crane, the coolest and one of the

cleverest men on the force, was sent to meet the train which the Dunham brothers had boarded in New York, with instructions to shadow them.

True to the New York Chief's dispatch, the two notorious criminals were on the express when it rolled into the station at Chicago, and as they stepped from one of the coaches the eagle eye of Dudley Crane singled them out and he followed less than ten paces in the rear.

At one of the first-class hotels the two men registered as coming from Boston, under the assumed names of Paige and Jones. And when the detective was convinced that they were located for the night, he reported at headquarters and received additional instructions.

When the Dunham brothers left the hotel the following morning they carried two small packages with them, though their grips were left behind. Crane was standing on the opposite side of the street and followed at a respectful distance. The direction taken by the two men led to the lake and there, after passing up and down where the docks were located, they paused at length near the mouth of a new sewer which had lately been completed. Two hours later they returned to their hotel, apparently hesitating to carry out their proposed move on that morning.

What that move was puzzled Crane, for try as he would he could not imagine what there was about the new sewer which could interest two bank burglars. Detective Crane was decidedly interested.

That afternoon the detective succeeded in securing a room joining that occupied by the men he was shadowing, and that night it was his good fortune to overhear a conversation which shed much light on the matter. The partition was thin and from sentences uttered in unguarded moments, he learned that they proposed to crack one of the National Banks, securing entrance and opportunity to work by means of the new sewer, which was not to be made use of by the city until the fore

part of the year. Their plan was to follow the windings of the sewer, according to a plan which they had managed to secure, and arriving at the street and number where the bank was located, dig their way through the walls of the sewer, the cellar walls and finally the brick covering the bank-vault; then, on the night decided upon, crack the safe, secure their booty and make their escape by the way they had come. The plan was worthy of the men who had conceived it, apparently practical in its every detail. The only thing that stood between the men and success was a detective—Dudley Crane.

"All that we need now is a good man whom we can trust," said one of the brothers, "a man who can keep a secret and do the heavy work. The question is—can we find such a man, Frank?"

Dudley Crane smiled as he listened and said to himself that he knew where just such a man could be found. "A man who can keep a secret and do the heavy work," he said, chuckling softly, "I'm the man."

The next morning one of the Dunham brothers took notice of a seedy-looking individual who was lounging about the gentleman's room of the hotel. After studying the man for an hour or more, he went to his room, returning shortly with his brother.

"A party that would do most anything for money," whispered one "and if he can hold his tongue, the man we are looking for."

Presently the seedy-appearing individual stepped out into the street, standing for a moment as though undecided which way to turn. One of the brothers followed him.

"Dead broke?" queried the crackman, addressing the man he had followed.

"Come pretty close to it," replied the lounge, "why do you ask, boss?"

"What do you do for a living?" demanded the crackman, abruptly.

"Crooked work interests me about as much as anything," replied the shiftless individual, grinning.

"Whew!" said the other, inwardly congratulating himself. "See here," said he, leading the supposed crook to one side, "if you can hold your tongue and do the right thing by me, I'll put you on the road to fortune."

"I am the man as can keep a secret and keep it well," replied the stranger, "I knows the importance of doing so."

"Meet me at eight to-night where the new sewer comes out at the lake, my man, and we will talk business," said the crackman; "until then, mum's the word."

Dudley Crane stood for a few seconds looking after the criminal whom he had succeeded in deceiving. "If you want a thing done well, do it yourself," he murmured.

It was important that the two Dunham boys be caught in the act of looting the bank; twice had the strong hand of the law attempted to place the men behind the bars, but through lack of convincing evidence had they escaped. This time it was determined at headquarters that they should not escape.

At precisely eight o'clock the individual whom the crackman had met in the morning waited at the mouth of the new sewer, and shortly after two men, who proved to be no other than the Dunham brothers, joined him. The night was favorable for the carrying out of the initial steps of the undertaking, there being no moon and the heavens overcast.

Two hundred feet within the sewer the trio paused and a consultation followed. A diagram of the sewer and a map of the city were produced and studied jointly for an hour or so. Arms of the sewer branched from the main channel at the junction of the streets with the main thoroughfare. The number of streets passed before coming to the avenue where the spotted bank was located were counted, and then the march through the sewer was taken up, each branch of the sewer being carefully counted as they progressed. At that point where the avenue leading to the bank was located, another pause was made and the maps consulted again. This time the number of rods between that point and the bank was ascertained from a note-book carried by one of the brothers, and accurate measurements were taken within the avenue branch of the sewer. Presently the three men paused, and the one who carried the measuring stick made a heavy cross on the brickwork, definitely marking the spot.

Meanwhile, it was presumed that the stranger who was to assist the crackmen, knew nothing of the nature of the work they were about to undertake. Finally, when the place was settled upon, the whole plan was laid before him.

"Your part in this undertaking," said one of the men, "will be to open the way to the vault overhead. One thousand dollars is yours the night that we get away with the money contained in the safe."

Nothing further was done that night, and silently the three men wended their way back toward the lake, arriving in due time and separating for the night.

Dudley Crane knew that he was playing with desperate men and that a slip on his part meant death, but he also knew that nothing, save an accident, would cause him to trip, and that with patience he would be rewarded in due time by seeing two of the greatest bank burg-

lars in the country behind the bars and a long term of years staring them in the face. Dudley Crane was ready to take his chances.

The ensuing evening, shortly before eight o'clock, according to agreement, Crane met the two brothers within the sewer and together they repaired to the point marked the previous evening. They had brought chisels and muffled hammers with them and work on the brick wall of the sewer was begun at once.

One by one the bricks were removed until an opening was made large enough for an ordinary man to crawl through. Having done this, some six feet of earth were encountered, half of which Crane succeeded in removing that night. At two o'clock work for that night was given up, and an hour later the two brothers were in their room at the hotel, and the detective was reporting his work at headquarters.

The three nights following work was carried on with persistency and vigor, and finally, the brick outer-wall of the bank-vault was encountered, precisely as the accurate plans of the two crooks had intimated. The following night was decided upon for cracking the safe.

The next morning the officials of the marked bank were apprised of the proposed attempt to crack the safe, and keys leading to the inner room where the vault was located were secured.

That evening shortly before nine o'clock four of the bravest and coolest detectives of the bank squad secreted themselves in the shadow of the great vault, a spot which the rays of the single gas-jet failed to reveal. It was the plan of these men to overpower the two crackmen before they injured the valuable safe.

At the same time Detective Crane was waiting at the mouth of the sewer for the two brothers. Presently he heard the faint paddle of oars, and shortly a boat glided in toward the sewer and the Dunham boys stepped out, one of them tying the boat close up to the mouth of the sewer.

If it were stated that Dudley Crane was undisturbed and unshaken by the thought that he was about to deliver the two men into the hands of the four detectives, the truth would not be spoken. Dudley Crane knew that the two men were armed and would not hesitate to kill the man who stood between them and liberty. He knew that if they discovered that they had been duped by the man they trusted, that he was no other than a detective himself, they would put a bullet in him without an instant's warning. All this passed through Crane's mind as he followed the two men. He foresaw that the first thought that would enter the minds of the burglars would be that he had betrayed them, and that they would wreak vengeance on him, unless, perchance he could farther deceive them. To this end, he had slipped the ball cartridges from the revolver which had been furnished him by the crooks, replacing them with blank ones. The reason for this will be apparent presently.

It now was near midnight. Waiting until the watchman had tried the door to the bank, the elder of the two brothers gave the signal for his brother and Crane to follow him into the bank, there to begin work on the vault.

Scarcely had Crane drawn himself through the opening by the aid of the vault, which opening had been cunningly concealed since it was made the preceding night, when four determined men stepped from behind the vault, and four gleaming revolvers pointed menacingly at the heads of the amazed and disconcerted crackmen.

Instantly three revolvers gleamed in the hands of the surprised men.

With an oath one of the brothers turned fiercely upon Crane. He would have fired had not he seen something that caused him to pause.

Crane, leveling his revolver full at the head of an advancing officer fired two shots in rapid succession.

Whatever his thoughts an instant before, that act on the part of Crane completely deceived him; the next instant he turned on the advancing officers. Two shots were fired, but they went wide of the mark, and in far less time than it takes to tell it, the two burglars were lying helpless on their backs and the twisters were being fastened to their wrists. Not until that moment did it dawn upon them that the man who had done the heavy work, was forging the fetters which were to place them prisoners in the merciless clutch of the law. When they saw him replacing his revolver in his hip-pocket and no restraining hand was laid upon him, they saw it all in the twinkling of an eye. The look of hate which they cast upon him, containing the thoughts which their tongues were powerless to utter, Dudley Crane never forgot. Could an artist have transferred it to canvas it would have made the painter famous.

A month later the Dunham brothers were tried and convicted and sentenced to a term of fifteen years at hard labor.

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THE MIRROR OF DESTINY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FLORENCE L. BRACKETT.

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I HAD been pacing the deck for nearly an hour, brooding over the treachery of one in whom I had had implicit trust, when suddenly I felt that some one was watching me intently. I looked about and saw only a woman seated alone at the extreme end of the boat. She was so draped in a mantle that her face was invisible, but I caught a glimpse of a pair of eyes gleaming through the black folds of the lace. As I glanced in her direction she arose. Just then the ship gave a lurch, and

she would have been thrown violently to the deck had I not sprung forward and caught her. She quickly recovered herself and with a soft "Gracias, Senor," hastened away.

After watching her until she had disappeared, I resumed my restless walk, but in some way things looked different. The sense of oppression weighing upon me had totally disappeared, and instead I felt buoyant and light hearted.

"What is the cause of this sudden change?" I asked myself. Hitherto, I had desired no companionship other than my own unhappy thoughts, but now I wanted to talk to someone, and seeing the captain on the bridge joined him.

During our conversation I asked him if he knew who the lady was whom I had assisted.

"No," he replied, "she is booked for Panama. Why do you know her?"

I told him my experience with her, and he said:

"Don't let her hoodoo you; lots of those women have that power in this country."

This information made me determine to see the mysterious woman again. Day after day slipped by until I despaired of seeing her. At last, one evening, I saw a slight figure glide by me and seat herself a short distance from where I stood.

I strolled toward her, and said:

"Good evening, senorita."

She acknowledged my salutation with a gracious bow.

"What a wonderful night it is!" I continued, opening the conversation.

"Yes," she replied softly. Then glancing up at me, she murmured: "I am afraid you have thought me very rude, senor, not to have thanked you for your assistance, the other day; believe me, I was very grateful."

"Oh," I replied, "it was nothing, please forget it."

"But," said she, "I am going to repay you for your kindness by telling you not to worry about the absconding of your partner. When we arrive at Panama the money that he stole will be returned to you."

"Why!" I exclaimed in astonishment. "How did you hear of what I thought was known

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only to myself and that scoundrel? Tell me, I beg of you."

"It has come to my knowledge," replied she, "not by human agency. But it is correct, nevertheless."

"This is wonderful!" I exclaimed. "Tell me more, I pray you."

"Your partner," continued she, "intended to sail for China, but Providence in the shape of malaria detained him. He is now seriously ill."

"Is he going to die?"

"Yes," replied she, "it is so ordained."

"But tell me," I said, "from whence do you get this wonderful knowledge of your fellow men?"

"That is a long story, which I will tell you later."

Then she arose, and with a "Buenas noches" glided away.

"Was there ever anything more mysterious?" I queried to myself.

That evening the Unknown appeared at dinner for the first time, and her loveliness fairly took my breath away. She was slight in figure, with a complexion of a rich olive hue. Her hair, intensely black, her arched eyebrows and long, drooping lashes all had an indescribable charm. Her eyes—can any one describe them! Midnight were not so dark. She was dressed in black of filmy texture, and a black lace mantua was thrown around her shoulders. Her movements were grace itself; in fact, there was something uncanny about her, and as she entered the saloon looking so beautiful, a thrill of apprehension seemed to pervade me.

Why should this strange woman affect me so? As we left the table I hastened to her side and said:

"Senorita, won't you come on deck? It is a charming evening."

She consented, and for a while we promenaded up and down the deck in silence.

Suddenly she said:

"Perhaps, senor, you would like to hear my story?"

"It would give me great pleasure to hear it," I replied. I then took two seats, and placed them in a secluded spot where we would be free from interruption. She began as follows:

"I was born in the city of Lima. My father was a civil engineer. When I was fifteen he was offered an opportunity to go into the interior. My mother insisted upon accompanying him, and she took me with her. After travelling for several months, through a wild and uninhabited country, we reached our destination without mishap. The village selected for us to live in while father was exploring consisted of a few miserable huts, but the inhabitants received us kindly and did all they could to make us comfortable. We had lived there over a year when my mother died of a fever. My father, who was about to go further into the interior, left me in the care of the medicine woman of the tribe.

"She called me her 'Little Princess,' and I regarded her as a second mother. She taught me all her science, how to heal the sick and the incantations for so doing, until I was a worthy disciple, and her followers worshipped me.

"One evening my foster mother called me to her side and said:

"My Princess, I am going to leave you very soon, and you must give heed to what I am about to tell you. You will be the medicine woman when I am gone, the tribe will look to you for counsel and help, and you must not fail them. The power I now possess will descend to you and enable you to be to them what I was."

"She then took from her bosom a round wooden case, and opening it revealed to me an inner casket of gold with a glass top. This casket appeared to be filled with a black liquid resembling ink, but as I looked, the surface of it changed, and mirrored in it I suddenly saw a hut resembling mine, and a woman lying on a bench covered with a cloth. As I gazed longer, the covering was slowly raised, and to my horror I saw that the woman was dead, and that her features were those of my protector. I screamed with fright.

"Oh, it's not you I see," I cried.

"Yes, dear," she answered, "but hear me through. Everything you wish to know—past, present and future is mirrored in this liquid, but for yourself the future is visible only on your birthday; at other times, nothing but the present is to be seen. Guard the mirror with great care, and never let it out of your possession, for it is your talisman. Do not let the tribe suspect from whence you get your power, but surround it with mystery. When your father returns to you the people will be loath to let you go, and will prevent it if they can. Then consult the oracle; by following its directions you will escape from their vigilance."

"The next day my foster mother died, and I was installed as the medicine woman of the tribe. For over a year I acted successfully as their counsellor. Then my father returned. When, however, the tribe heard that I must leave them to go with him they were wild with anger, and said it could never be—I was their medicine woman, and must remain with them. From that moment our every action was watched, and a guard placed about my hut.

"I consulted my magic mirror. In it I saw

FROM PUDDING LANE TO PIE CORNER.

The Fearful Fire Which Consumed the English Metropolis Attributed to Gluttony.

The great fire of London began at Pudding Lane and ended at Pie Corner. The divines of the day seized upon the coincidence and proclaimed the fire a punishment for gluttony. The modern theologian would hardly stand by such a proposition. He believes that

"Gherizem and Ebal
Are in each human soul"

and that gluttony would be punished in the individual glutton by the logical consequences which follow the offense.

It is a fact not to be denied that over-eating



kindles the fire of disease in many a human body, and this fire of disease often finds its beginning at "pudding lane" in the sweet and soggy stuff which pleases the palate but offends the stomach of the eater.

Physiological living would demand that all food be selected primarily with respect to its nutritive value, the pleasures of the palate to be a secondary consideration. But that order is popularly reversed. First please the palate and let the nourishment take care of itself is the practical expression of the popular idea of eating and drinking. And so the body is fed (?) with all sorts of innutritious material, spiced or salted, acid or sweet. The palate is pleased and enjoys the flavors of the food, regardless of the discomfort of the overloaded stomach, and the result is

A NATION OF DYSPEPTICS.

Is that statement too sweeping? The increasing prevalence of diseases of the digestive and nutritive systems fully justifies the claim. "Weak" stomach is the general name given to a variety of these diseases. To many the whole range of them is summed up in the one word, "dyspepsia." To one who has had experience with this disease there is no other word so expressive of purgatorial torments as that one word, "dyspepsia." Mind and body suffer alike from its influence. To physical misery it adds the mental misery which is consequent on "anger, malice and all uncharitableness."

"I had been troubled with catarrh of the stomach and heart trouble," writes Mr. W. D. Merchant, of Tylersburg, Clarion Co., Penna. "Had doctored for some time without relief, then I began to take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I took seven bottles. Before I began to take it I weighed 119 pounds, and now I weigh 176. I am working steadily and feel like a well man. I send you many thanks."

If people realized the far reaching effects of diseases of the stomach and the allied organs of digestion and nutrition, they would make a business of getting well.

THE HUMAN STOMACH

is to the organized structure of the body what the commissary department is to an organized army, what the tender is to the railroad engine. If soldiers are not fed they can't fight. Without the supply of fuel in the tender the engine will stop dead on the track. Every organ of the body depends on the stomach for its vitality, and that is why, when the stomach is diseased, and the digestive and nutritive functions imperfectly performed, any or all the great organs—brain, lungs, heart, kidneys, or liver, may become involved in disease. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition, and with the cure of these diseases other ailments which originated in a diseased condition of the stomach are cured through the stomach.

"I have taken one bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for indigestion and liver complaint," writes Mr. C. M. Wilson, of Yaddin College, Davidson Co., N. C. "Have had no bad spells since I commenced taking your medicine—in fact, have not felt like the same man. Before I took the 'Golden Medical Discovery' I could not eat anything without awful distress, but now I can eat anything I wish without having unpleasant feelings."

"I was a total wreck—could not sleep nor eat," writes Mr. J. O. Beers, of Berryman, Crawford Co., Mo. "For two years I tried medicine from doctors, but received very little benefit. I lost flesh and strength, was not able to do a good day's work. I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and when I had taken one bottle I could sleep and my appetite was wonderfully improved. I have taken five bottles and am still improving."

One of the great causes of the progress of diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition is the treatment of symptoms of disease instead of the radical treatment of the disease itself. People are induced to use some paltry palliative which temporarily relieves distress after eating, until with many people a tablet or a few drops of medicine become a necessary adjunct of each meal. Palliatives relieve the stomach for a time, but the condition remains uncured, and will certainly grow worse.

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WEDDING PRESENTS

are often more ornamental than useful. No more acceptable wedding present could be offered to any young couple than a copy of Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, which is sent free to any address on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. This great work contains 1008 large pages and over 700 illustrations. It treats the great topics which relate to health and happiness as they have never before been treated—from the common sense point of view and in plain English. Send 31 one-cent stamps (expense of mailing only), for the book in durable cloth binding, or 21 stamps for the paper covered volume. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

the tribe surrounding their Sun God several leagues away from the village; I also saw my hut with the guards around it lying on the ground asleep, while in the distance I seemed to discern my father and myself riding swiftly away. I told him of the tribe's annual worship of the Sun God, and that this would be our time to leave. I prepared for the guards a decoction of herbs pleasant to the taste and having the power of putting them to sleep for many hours, and made preparations to escape. "At last the eventful day arrived, and everything happened as I had foreseen; before our captors returned home we were beyond pursuit.

"Five years after our escape my father's health began to fail. Upon consulting my oracle I found that he was doomed soon to die. Now being my birthday, it also seemed to be the moment to look into the future."

"Ah," I cried breathlessly, "did the mirror tell you your fate?"

"Yes," she replied, "and the vision gave me courage, for I saw I was to be well taken care of after my father's death, and would not be long alone. Six months later father died, and now I am waiting for the fulfillment of the mirrored prophecy."

"Well, has it come true?" I exclaimed.

"It is slowly being verified," she said, solemnly.

"And that is where you found out about me?"

"Yes, you were so kind, and—and—" said she, stammering, and when I looked up quickly I saw her face was suffused with blushes.

My heart throbbed violently. Could I resist the siren spell she was casting about me? No! A thousand times no,—nor did I wish to. I took her hands hurriedly in mine, and gazing in her eyes I said:

"Did you see in that witch glass that I loved you, and could not live without you, and did it tell you that you were to be my wife? If it did not tell you so, it is a false oracle and does not mirror the truth. Tell me!" I exclaimed, "did you?"

For a moment there was a deep silence. Then she said in a faltering voice:

"It spoke the truth."

In an instant I was pressing her to my heart in a passionate embrace. Later she told me that I had been plainly mirrored in the magic fluid, and that when I appeared on the deck she recognized me at once. Perceiving that I was in trouble, she immediately looked to see what it was. Her diffidence arose from her fear lest I suspect her secret.

"And now, my darling," I said, "let me see this wonderful mirror."

She hastened below for it and a few moments later reappeared bringing the weird thing in her hand. She was about to give it to me when a great wave struck the side of the steamer. I lost my balance and in trying to save myself, struck her hand holding the case so that the magic mirror flew out, and to my great disappointment and disgust disappeared over the side of the vessel.

Beulah burst into tears. I tried to comfort her by saying:

"It is better so, my darling. What do we want to know of the future,—haven't we the present and each other? Let the uncanny thing go."

As had been foretold, on our arrival at Panama, we found my absconding partner dying at the hospital. He had already made arrangements to have the money restored. I went to see him but he was unconscious. A few days later, when he died, I saw that he was properly buried. Beulah and I were married at once; we are very happy and have never yet regretted the loss of the Mirror of Destiny.

JOHN 3.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HARRIET W. SEAVER.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



I WAS once traveling with my wife on one of those famous "personally conducted" trips across the continent. The party in our car consisted of only four, as it was then late for the Californian season, and because of the number we were thrown more than ordinarily together.

Besides myself and wife was a middle-aged widow, Mrs. Brown, who was of that extremely dark type, with sallow skin and shiny black hair and a superb carriage, except for the defect of a slight lameness as she

walked. And a Capt. Hart, an old detective, who, worn out with care and the nerve strain of such a life, was seeking once more the part of the country he called home and taking with him his affianced wife, Mrs. Brown.

A more interesting couple we could not have been thrown in with once in a thousand times. Mrs. Brown had traveled most all over the world, and the Captain was daily narrating little incidents that had happened during his professional career.

The one I am about to repeat was his first unsuccessful case, and as we had drawn from him the fact that it was during this case he had met Mrs. Brown, we prevailed upon him to give us the story.

"About twenty years ago I was called from San Francisco to a little town in Lower California to watch a girls' college and discover who in the building was daily relieving the students of their small money and little trinkets. I was introduced to the teachers and students by the president—who had called me—as the new professor of astronomy, for I felt I could do more investigating in that capacity than as one of the servants. Besides, the menials were all Chinamen and I did not relish the idea of continued disguise and quarters with that—well, not over-clean—class.

"So I was given a room on the second floor at the head of the west wing, where my outlook was the entire campus. And here I was left undisturbed, having announced that I would postpone my classes until I had completed 'a set of charts' I was preparing, in case any one suspected my identity.

"For a few days I stumbled along on veiled clues without finding anything satisfactory. The thefts took place just as they had before I arrived, which was evidence enough to me that no one, except the president, suspected my errand.

"One thing of great importance to me did happen in those first few days. I met and fell deeply in love." Here he stopped and glanced at Mrs. Brown tenderly, while she blushed in a way peculiar to her, by growing intensely pale, "and before I left the college I had her consent to become my wife, in spite of the fact I was half a score of years her senior. But unfortunately for me, young girls have parents desirous of better connections than a mere detective and—I have been obliged to wait all these years—but that is another story," and the Captain smiled and sighed and continued:

"As I say, things went on just the same. I was in love but had the same wary eye for business and in less than a week I had formed my conclusions which made me wander frequently through Servants' Hall.

"I think now the guilty one could have been caught, had I understood Chinese. I struggled to get into some of their conversations (if such they may be called) but the cook was the only one who took any notice of me. The others would go their ways sputtering their jargon and as long as I was there I couldn't see enough difference in their faces to tell one from another. There was John 1—for each had a number in place of a name. He was the lean cook. John 2, a garrulous chap, was outside chore boy. John 3, who might have been dumb from all the talking I ever heard him do, had a peg leg that was his distinguishing feature. John 4, 5 and 6, were undersized boys who acted as waiters, and from 6 up to 14 there were chamber-boys, a bell-boy and laundry men. I studied each chance I got, to learn if any one had more money on hand than the others, but they all knew nothing except that they all played 'Fan Tan', and more than that I could not learn.

"Now up to the time of my advent nothing of great value had been missed; but one noon, on returning from recitation, one of the young ladies made hue and cry over a large solitaire ring which had disappeared while she was out. Each girl who had been near her room was questioned in my presence, while her room was searched. The only person remaining unsearched was the servant who had put her room in order; and as each Chinaman in turn denied being near there, they were all suspected and all watched accordingly.

"I felt that I was soon coming upon some clue. That evening the president came to me and said that the student who had the opposite room and who was in bed with a hard headache during the forenoon, had heard the one who was making the bed, and it had seemed to her as though each step he took would make her head burst, it was such an irritating thumping noise.

"This convinced me it was John 3, the wooden legged man, and I hurried into the quarters and looked for him, but to my surprise he didn't appear with the rest of the servants. Then I was convinced. I asked questions but could get no satisfactory replies, however I did grasp the fact that two or three of the boys lived outside and came in each day to work. So I waited until the next morning and after I saw number 3 safely inside, I stationed men at the four doors leading from the building to the campus and allowed him the freedom of the building as usual; feeling that I was sure of him, I hastened to dress, as I had an appointment to meet my sweetheart in the drawing room at eleven. Presently I heard the thump, thump of that peg leg outside my door, then it passed on down the corridor; twice it stopped, then it continued on down the west wing until it died away and I wrestled with a collar stud that had dropped down my back and wondered just how I should break the news to my sweetheart that I was no astronomy professor after all, only a penniless detective.

"I heard the girls returning from their recitations talking and laughing, but it wasn't long before they came rushing back to my room—mine being the nearest in that section—exclaiming that two of their rooms had been turned upside down and all their money taken from places where it had been concealed. I assured them it would all be returned that night and hurried down to the drawing room, but my sweetheart was late and excited over the thefts, and in the brief time we had together I explained—but to continue my story. When night came no number 3 went out of the building, and more perplexing still on investigation no number 3 was found in the building." But here I interrupted.

"Could no one be found who saw him after you heard him go down the west corridor?"

"And that was the strangest part of it," continued the captain. "Mrs. Brown was in her room at the end of the wing the whole forenoon and did not even see or hear him, did you hear?"

In our intense interest we had not noticed that Mrs. Brown had swooned, but as we looked around for her to verify this statement, we saw her in a dead faint in the chair in which she sat.

As I assisted the captain to lift her to the couch I noticed the cause of Mrs. Brown's lameness was a wooden foot. And I wondered if the captain had not been in love, how long it would have taken him to solve the mystery of the disappearance of John 3.

ONE OF THE UNEXPLAINABLES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARAH M. MAVERICK.

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It is a queer story, and I am not telling it because I think you will believe it. Don't expect you to, for it seems hardly possible even to myself. It was one lovely day, so perfectly delightful it seemed a shame to stay in the house, and my journalistic instinct prompted me to go on a voyage of discovery after the rift-raft of news and items that is always floating about, and which is sure to come in handy some time or other.

While I was thinking which way to go, the train belonging to the O. N. branch of the road came along, and I boarded it, idly wondering as I did so whether I should meet my fate at the end of the line, or, what would suit me a great deal better just then, whether some extra good paying item would develop itself, thereby enabling me to meet my landlady next Saturday night with a smiling countenance. I was the only occupant of the car except the brakeman, but no one ever thinks of considering the train hands anybody unless, indeed, they need help, when they are very apt to discover that it is just as well to be a little bit civil to them.

I was looking around for anything that might be made of use, when to my astonishment I saw a big black and white cat right in the aisle washing herself.

"Why, kitty," I exclaimed, "where on earth did you come from?"

As I spoke the brakeman turned toward me

with so white a face I thought he was fainting.

"Don't," he said, as I moved toward her, "it's the phantom cat. She might kill you."

"Nonsense," I answered, "she's flesh and blood, fast enough. She's a beauty, and I want her," but somehow when I stooped to lift her my hands were empty, though there she still sat just ahead of me. She kept right on washing her face, and though she never took one step she was nearing the door. "There," I exclaimed as I cornered her, "I've got you now sure," but as I clasped my hands around her she vanished through the closed door.

"I told you so," was his remark as I turned to my companion for an explanation. "She's a spook, and we dread to see her I can tell you, for she is sure to be the harbinger of some awful accident. She appears three times, and then we look out for ourselves, for the warning never fails."

"But why does she haunt this particular train?" I asked, much impressed by his evident anxiety.

"Well, it seems that some years ago there was a conductor on this line who was a great lover of pets, cats especially. One day a poor little black and white kitten lay on the depot platform with a broken leg. That was enough for him. He took it aboard the train, and cared for it so thoroughly that it grew into a great handsome animal that was the pet of all the train hands. Every morning it went on duty with him, riding on the cars or the engine, whichever it pleased. But one day, no one could tell how it happened, the conductor stood on the depot steps with his cat in his arms, when all of a sudden just as the train started, he fell forward throwing her under the wheels which passed over him as he tried to save her. Poor kitty was picked up dead, and her friend lived but a few moments. About three months later she appeared same as now, and within a month there was a terrible accident, and so it has been ever since. Whenever there is trouble coming she gives us warning. It is about five years since she last appeared, but mark my words, it won't be five weeks before you will hear of something disastrous on this road."

I didn't know how to answer him, so I said nothing. The poor fellow's distress was too real for commonplace remarks, and besides, my own experience was strong proof that something had happened out of the ordinary. My day was spoiled, and I took the next train home. But such impressions wear away under the friction of daily duties, and when four weeks later I took that same train, I remembered the incident only as a passing thought. We had just passed the Junction, and I was looking out of the window when a touch on my shoulder made me turn to see my friend, the brakeman, pointing toward the end of the car. There as before sat the black and white kitty. Suddenly she stood up, shook herself, and walking to the end of the car, looked all around and slowly vanished.

"Heaven help us," he groaned, "this is the third time. I must tell the boys."

A thrill of fear passed through me, and I wondered if it was my fate to be present when the impending trouble came. We were near the end of the route then and reached it in safety. It was necessary that I should reach home that night, and against my better judgment I took my seat in the train for my return. Somehow I was impressed to do so. As we started I glanced among the passengers to see if, in case of accident, anyone would need special assistance. It didn't take me long to decide, for nearly at the end of the car was a delicate little woman with a wee bit of a baby in her lap. Under pretense of being able to hear better, I coaxed her to a seat in the middle, and it was not long before my admiration of her little one and sympathy with herself had won her confidence and she told me a pathetic story of early widowhood and a struggle to live that would have touched a harder heart than mine. "Sometimes," she added, "I have a premonition that I shall not live very long, and what will become of baby if I should be taken?"

The dark eyes so full of trouble looked straight into mine, and I was impelled to say, "The kind Father who sent her to you will never forget her, and you can safely trust Him to watch over His own."

"Yes," she answered, I know all that, but I want the assurance that some human agency will be near in her time of need," and, why I said it I cannot tell, but I replied, "here is my card. Should you realize your fear, send me word, and I will come to you, and take the child if anything happens to render it necessary."

"Heaven bless you," she exclaimed fervently. "I have never met you before, but I know of you, and I am perfectly sure that she will be safe in your care. I think Providence must have sent you to me."

For the last two or three minutes I had been conscious of an increased stir about the train, and when the conductor rushed through the car, and pulled the cord controlling the air brakes, I knew the dreaded time had come. He was too late, for at that moment a terrible crash threw us, and everything else into a heap. One fearful cry sounded above the uproar, and for a brief moment all was still. As soon as we found we were not killed we scrambled to our feet. All but the little mother; she had fallen face downward, and the gash in her temple showed how death had come to her. Baby was under a seat, unhurt, and evidently wondering what it all meant. A gentleman who had been sitting behind us laid her gently in my arms saying as he did so, "the poor mother claims your promise."

"A promise I shall keep to the letter," I replied as I folded the soft form close to my heart, and looked into the sweet, smiling face unshadowed by its dreadful loss.

The accident was due to a collision with a wildcat train which was rushing along in hot haste trying to avoid the very evil it perpetrated. Had it not been for the warning the men had received, thus keeping them constantly on the watch, the result would have been even more disastrous than it was. As for myself, I believe my trip on that day was a specially intended Providence, and although I am not anxious to repeat the experience, I do not regret it. Baby is still a wee bit lassic, but she is the one gleam of sunshine in my hard work-a-day life, and I hope she will be spared to me for many a year, although to this day I have no idea who she is or where she rightly belongs. Neither do I care. She is mine now.

The phantom cat has not been seen since the accident, but it is safe to say that should danger again threaten "the boys," their feline friend will be on hand to give a timely warning.

DR. BOGGS' EXPERIMENT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY KATHRYN R. HARRIS.

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Forty-five Dr. Boggs was still pouring his own coffee in bachelor apartments in Boonville. The reason for this lay not so much in his ineligibility as in his unwillingness to take what he could get. Old maids he would not consider, widows he abhorred, and the young girls, without exception, fooled him. This being the case, he did not get the sympathy he deserved.

Had not the "widow" Clark laid aside her mourning six months after her husband's death for the sole purpose, as every one knew, of relieving the doctor's forlorn condition? Then there were the Misses Simms, who lived next door, either one of whom would have been willing to sacrifice her freedom for the sake of a man in the house, and not, as some vulgarly supposed, to escape the stigma of old-maidhood. It is true they had Ned, the only child of their dead brother, but he was only sixteen and not to be depended upon. The younger Miss Simms had gone so far on one occasion as to offer to straighten up the doctor's medicine chest, and the elder had even proposed to do his darning. But Dr. Boggs stoutly objected to this. While he was fond of the Misses Simms, and inclined to accept their suggestions, no one but his wife should ever do his darning, and that wife must be a woman of unquestioned youth and beauty. To this resolve he had adhered for twenty-five years, and he could not think of breaking it now.

Although the doctor cherished this ideal of a matrimonial alliance, it must be acknowledged that he had become discouraged in the methods of courtship thus far employed. His failures were a standing joke in Boonville. No wonder then that he began to cast about for secret and more effective means of pursuing his amorous designs.

The idea came to him like an electric shock one morning while reading his paper—he would advertise. So taken was he with this suggestion that he spent one whole day composing and recomposing an advertisement, and when it was finished he took off his glasses and laughed in sheer pleasure of anticipation. What would the Misses Simms think if they knew!

The doctor's advertisement came out in the "Boonville Herald" the following morning. He read it with the satisfaction of a man who has undertaken and accomplished a great deal in life.

"A gentleman of manners and means wishes to correspond with a young lady of beauty and accomplishments. Object: Matrimony."

For a week Dr. Boggs anxiously awaited results. Then at last his patience was rewarded by a dainty little missive which read as follows:

"MY DEAR O. B.—Your advertisement has come to me as a ray of hope in a very dark life. I am almost eighteen, but because I am considered pretty and my guardians can keep possession of my property until my marriage, they do not allow me to go out without a chaperone. The confinement is killing me. I cannot endure it much longer. If you rescue me from this unhappy fate you will win the lifelong gratitude of one who dares only to sign herself, C. M., Box 84, Boonville."

Now when Dr. Boggs read this letter his sympathetic heart was torn by conflicting emotions; indignation, that this spirited young creature should be bound down under such tyrannical restrictions; pride, that should appeal to him for freedom; happiness, that he was soon to see the realization of his fondest hopes.

In hot haste he penned an answer, assuring her of his readiness to do everything in his power, and begging her to reveal her identity that he might be able to make some move in

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her behalf. But this, she wrote him, would be useless at present, for her people would not listen to reason. Her only hope lay in an elopement. She appreciated his generous offer, oh, so much, and should the time ever come, would be glad to take advantage of it. Meanwhile she wanted to know more of her unknown friend. Would he object to sending his photograph.

The doctor looked at this request and scratched his head dubiously. He had not had a photograph taken in twenty-five years. But, happy thought, there was one left of his college days. He would send that with a request for one of hers in exchange.

For ten days following this no answer came from her. The doctor was worried and perplexed, wondering what had happened. When she did write it was to tell him that her mail had come under suspicion. She was no longer allowed even stamps, and did not know when she could send the picture or write again. The doctor replied promptly, enclosing a dollar's worth of postage and urging her to accept him as a sure escape from such unjust espionage. She sent the photograph the next day. It was his ideal of feminine loveliness. After seeing it, he was spurred to greater impatience to meet and know the original.

He wrote now more frequently, in every letter urging her to arrange a meeting. She objected at first, demanding a pledge of good faith. Dr. Boggs marvelled that he had not thought of this before. The ring he had used for twenty-five years still lay in its faded blue plush box, a little worse for wear, but thick and heavy still. He got it out and polished it up a bit, then wrapped it in a new box and sent it to her. This proof of his earnestness seemed to satisfy her for shortly afterwards she agreed to his request and appointed a place for the meeting. It was to be in a secluded corner of the park, and the time half past eight that night. He would know her by a long gray cape and a blue fascinator she would muffle about her face as a disguise. On no account was he to appear later than the time mentioned.

Dr. Boggs set about making preparations. He felt almost ready to receive congratulations. He took a minister into his confidence. Next he instituted such a house renovation as brought the Misses Simms over to remonstrate with him. Did not he know that the fall was an unseasonable time for house cleaning? But the doctor pushed ahead with the air of one who knows what he is about and is not open to advice. The Misses Simms would receive a glorious enlightenment in a few days.

When night came he dressed with great care, and dyed his hair afresh. He had not forgotten that photograph and she must not detect the years intervening. On the stroke of eight he put on his hat and hurried up town. For half an hour he strolled aimlessly about the streets, consulting his watch at every corner. When the time arrived he slipped over to the park gate and entered stealthily. As he approached the spot designated he began to feel some natural misgivings. What if she deceived him—if she did not come. But no, his heart gave a great leap of triumph! On a rustic seat, immersed in shadow, sat a slender gray figure wearing a blue fascinator. Without a moment's hesitation he went forward and sat down beside her. The girl did not speak. Her head was bowed and she seemed to be weeping. All the gallantry of the man's nature rose to the occasion.

"Do not be frightened little one; I am here to protect and rescue you. Are you willing to trust me?"

"Yes," she whispered, striving for composure. "I believe you are my friend."

"Friend? Ah, that is not the word. I love you; I will do anything for you."

"Will you save me from my persecutors?"

"Will? What would I not do for such a beautiful young creature? Only grant me the privilege and you shall be my wife before to-morrow night."

"Do you love me as much as that? You have not known me long."

"Long enough to love you better than life. Will you promise me now?"

She hung her head as if shyly considering.

"But my circumstances—you forget that I cannot get possession of my money even for stamps."

"Ah! I see, but that shall be no obstacle. If you will accept—"

The doctor was divesting himself of all his available change, and searching his pockets for a match to make out a draft in his bank book. So absorbed was he that he did not notice a movement in the shrubbery behind, which caused his companion to start up as if preparing for flight. The doctor, not to be cheated on the very eve of success, threw his arms around her and drew her back with the intention of planting his betrothal kiss upon her lips. The kiss fell harmless upon the old gray cape for she sprung from his arms, leaving it with him, and then such a laugh fell upon the still night air as no woman ever uttered. The next instant there stood revealed—Ned Simms, bereft of the blue fascinator, an old black riding skirt dangling over his long legs and his angular figure grotesquely incased in one of his aunts' old tea-jackets; and from every quarter there issued shrieks of laughter as a crowd of mischievous boys gathered around to witness the thrilling scene. The merriment was cut short, however, by the resounding whack of the doctor's cane which came down among them, scattering them to the four corners of the park, but though no broken bones followed the stroke, something else gave way beneath it—twenty-five years of cherished sentiment.

"I've played the fool for the last time," said Dr. Boggs, as he walked back through the park, "but I'll punish that young scoundrel yet and—and—I'll marry too, before to-morrow night."

Ten minutes later he rang the door bell of the Misses Simms.

"There is our disobedient boy at last," said the elder Miss Simms to her sister. "Ned is getting so bad; he needs a man to control him. We will have to go and let him in."

They had just put on their caps preparatory to making their toilets for the night, and did not stop to remove them. As the door opened, to their dismay the light fell upon the electrified countenance of Dr. Boggs.

"Which one of you offered to darn my socks?"

"I did," admitted the elder.

"Are you ready to begin to-morrow?"

"Why, certainly, doctor, if I can accommodate you."

"Well, I'll bring the minister over at seven. Please be ready. Good night."

Thus Dr. Boggs secured his revenge—a poetic retribution which even Ned's fertile brain had never contemplated.

One Pair of Home-Beginners.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



the independent control of a home.

I imagine I see before me an audience of young married couples, just about to undertake the same enterprise; and a strong desire seizes me to tell them, very frankly and practically, what we—my wife and I—have learned from the experience of the past five years. Perhaps they might get some useful suggestions from the report, or at least some warning against the mistakes which we made and had to undo.

In the first place, with respect to the house; we will suppose that you are to provide your own shelter, as most young couples do, and prefer to do, and that you start out with the average income of fifteen dollars a week. We found that most of our young married friends were renting and were at first inclined to follow their example; but, thanks to the advice of a real estate agent—whether disinterested or not I cannot say—we chanced upon a better way, one which has turned out most advantageously to us and which we can heartily recommend to all home-beginners. We borrowed \$2400 from a co-operative bank, paid \$250 down, and bought outright a new, cozy, seven-room suburban cottage, equipped with all the modern conveniences. There are plenty more for sale at the same price all about us.

The principle upon which co-operative banks are operated is too involved to be explained here. But it will be sufficient to say that they are absolutely safe, and provide a means by which home-beginners can borrow a larger sum, at the outset, than could be obtained from a savings bank. We paid into the bank each month \$24.60, of which \$12.60 was interest on the sum borrowed, and \$12, sharing in the profits of the bank's investments, was placed to our credit, to form a sinking fund which should gradually extinguish the loan. Many of our friends were paying from \$15 to \$20 per month for the mere rental of cottages like ours. We were paying out a little more than that, to be sure, but getting back nearly half of it each month in the form of an interest-drawing deposit.

The result of this arrangement exceeded our most sanguine expectations, for, at the close of the fourth year, by adding only \$200 in cash, we found ourselves able to "get out" of the co-operative bank and exchange our loan of \$1700, which, at six per cent. interest, enabled us to practically own our own home, at a yearly cost for shelter of \$102. We do not try to pay anything on the mortgage, preferring to let it lie, as it would be easier to sell our equity in the house and lot, should we care to, than to obtain the full cash value of the property.

This, then, is one great advantage of going into a co-operative bank—to use it as a stepping-stone to obtaining a savings bank loan. The latter one could not secure at the outset, since savings banks will loan only two-thirds of the assessed value of real estate. The profits on your sinking-fund investment in the co-operative bank are comparatively large, and you will be surprised to see how few years it will take to "graduate from" the co-operative and reduce your monthly bill for shelter two-thirds. If you choose, of course, you can remain in the co-operative bank until your loan is extinguished and house paid for. But that means a period of from ten to fifteen years of compulsory monthly payments, which remain all the way through as large as at the outset. By our plan, we had only four years of this noticeable financial drain. Now we obtain the same shelter—and may have it as long as we choose, since savings banks are not accustomed to call in good loans—for a trifle over \$8.00 a month. And \$8.00 shelter means, for us, a new modern house, with all up-to-date conveniences and appliances, only ten minutes by rail from the heart of a great city.

We think, therefore, that we have solved that first problem of shelter, fairly satisfactorily.

We made a serious mistake, however, with respect to the next great problem, that of bringing running expenses within the limits of income remaining after paying the cost of shelter. It took us two years to learn that the chief function of a new home is not the continuous entertainment of old friends. "Company" during those first two years cost us more than we had any right to expend for the mere delight of showing off our new home. We did not realize where the drain came from that was keeping us continually behind until a period of respite from "company" disclosed it to us. It was more than half our own fault, too, for we had many appreciative relatives and "chums" on both sides, and warmly encouraged their coming to visit us. A month without a guest was rare, at the beginning of our domestic life. But we stopped this sort of a thing when we discovered what it meant; and perhaps the mistake we made—the mistake of overdoing a good thing—may help others to avoid a financial set-back at a time when every extra penny is needed to complete the furnishing of the new home.

Another mistake, which we were three years in discovering, was this; that meat is required but once a day, and that the health and working powers are promoted by its minimum use. For three years our big expense item in the food account was for meat. We bought the best and made it "the chief of our diet,"—warm for breakfast and dinner and cold for lunch. Then the doctor had to be called in for some obstinate ailment, and his verdict was: "Overheated blood—inflammatory tendency. Reduce your meat diet." We reduced it at once, and have been much improved in health and purse ever since. Make a comparative trial of it, if you will, young beginners—a month of meat, and a month almost without

it—and see what your verdict is, all things considered, at the expiration of that time.

We made a mistake in the other direction, by trying to do some things too cheaply. For instance, we screened our whole house with ready-made, "adjustable" screens, at fifty cents each—and the mosquitoes nearly ate us up. We had to discard every one of those screens (they are up garret now), and hire a carpenter to make us fitted screens at seventy-five cents each. After which we lived in perfect comfort, so far as insects are concerned.

The first winter we bought twenty-four bushels of potatoes, at wholesale rates, and stored them in our dry, cemented cellar. Before they were half gone, however, the percentage of decay was so great that we had to get our grocer to take them off our hands at a very low figure. Loss, about \$4.50. Another mistake in domestic economy, you see. A small family, I believe, should buy all perishable provisions in small quantities. Don't try the hotel or boarding-house plan with two or three months. It doesn't pay.

In conclusion, I submit a few items of advice, condensed for lack of space:

With a family of two or three, the young wife can, and ought to, do her own housework, with the exception of washing and heavy scrubbing. In nine cases out of ten, she will be better satisfied than if she paid, boarded and worried over a raw servant.

Buy matting instead of carpets for all chambers. One or two small rugs, with plain matting of good quality, will make the ideal chamber, for health, convenience, and looks.

Clean house twice a year, in the spring and fall, and take one room at a time, letting the whole process extend over several weeks. When you are done, you won't realize that you have passed through the great and long-dreaded ordeal of old-fashioned housekeeping.

Furnish your house gradually, desiring everything long enough to know that you really want it.

Live by system. Have a time for everything and a place for everything, and learn to be miserable whenever domestic regularity is violated.

St. Vitus Dance. One bottle Dr. M.M.Fenner's Specific cures. By mail. Send for Circular, Fredonia, N.Y.

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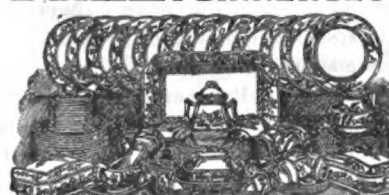
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Stylish, convenient, economical. Made of fine cloth, finished in pure starch, and exactly resemble fashionable linen goods. No Laundry Work When soiled discard. Ten Collars or five pairs of Cuffs, 25cts. By mail, 30cts. Send 6 cts. in stamps for sample collar or pair of cuffs. Name size and style. REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., Dept. K, Boston, Mass.

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An 15-pound order secures a 56-piece Tea Set.

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Mr. H. N. Warner, of Kearney, Neb., says:

"In 1894 I was attacked with paralysis in my left side. You might stick a pin to the head into my left hip and I would not feel it. I was unable to do any kind of work and had to be turned in bed. I fully made up my mind that I could not be cured as I had used all kinds of medicine and had tried many doctors."

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From the Advertiser, Azell, Neb.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are never sold by the dozen or hundred, but always in packages. At all druggists, or direct from the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y., 50 cents per box, 6 boxes \$2.50.

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The American historical novel has grown into a very popular form of fiction. The larger per cent. of successes in the literary field have been among those who have used American history as a basis. One of the earlier writers in this popular field is acknowledged as one of the best in spite of the competition of these later years. Molly Elliott Seawell is a most charming young Virginian. She is a tall, handsome young woman with a quick, direct manner that hardly suggests that her early life was passed in the quiet surroundings of a Virginia country neighborhood. She has made her home in Washington for some time where her talent, her success and her thoroughbred manner have won her friends and the entree into literary circles of the capital. Her first success came through a series of Russian stories. Their reception encouraged her to write *Maid Marion* in 1886. These were all short stories but they brought a request from a publisher for a complete novel. *Hale Weston* was written. The *Berkleys* and *Their Neighbors* and *Throckmarters* soon followed. Among her best known books are: *The History of the Lady Betty Stair*, *The Rock of the Lion*, *A Virginia Cardin*, and *Children of Destiny*. The last named is in a somewhat different vein from the others but Miss Seawell declares "It is by far my best book." Miss Seawell has demonstrated the fact that ease and success in writing come from practice. Twice she has been a prize winner when names of authors were unknown and the competition was solely on the merits of the story. She won a prize of \$500 offered by the Youth's Companion for a child's story. "Little Jarvis" was the winner and when the names were read it was found that it was no unknown writer who had distanced competitors. The *New York Herald* offered a prize of \$3000 for the best novelette. The competition was very strong, thousands of manuscripts being received. Many of our successful writers entered the lists as well as hundreds of unknown authors. "The Sprightly Romance of Marvac" was pronounced the best novelette and when the author's name was drawn from the envelope it was Molly Elliott Seawell. Miss Seawell is one of the best examples of the "new regime" in the South, and among all the brilliant Southern women whose success has been a development of causes arising from changed conditions, she occupies one of the leading positions.

A leading feature of the study of French in our colleges has become the series of lectures in that language by some prominent French writer or critic. This idea was introduced by the *Cercle Francais de l'Universite*. Harvard Students and lovers of the highest form of literary expression are anticipating a rare treat in listening to Monsieur Henri de Regnier. On the first of March he commenced the delivery of the series of eight lectures at Harvard. After completing the course there he will be heard at the Adelphi college in Brooklyn and then at the universities of Columbia, Princeton, Brown, Chicago, California, and Vassar, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr and other colleges and schools throughout the United States. His lectures are on the topic of Modern Poetry. He is eminently fitted to speak to the college world of America on this topic as he is recognized in France as a leader of the new school of poetry. He was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 1897 and this year the French Academy awarded him the Prier Vitet for his works. He is the author of *Sites*, *Arethuse*, and many volumes of short stories and poems. His wife is recognized as one of the most gifted and beautiful women in France.

To be the writer of a great hymn is to come more closely into communion with the feelings

and emotions of mankind than could be done in any other way. Thousands are familiar with the words of "God be with you till we meet again." It has been translated into almost every foreign language where the story of Christianity is told and is literally sung around the world. All know the beautiful words and tune, but all do not know that the author of the hymn is Dr. Rankin, the President of Howard University, Washington, D. C. This school is partly supported by the government and now has nearly seven hundred pupils. Dr. Rankin teaches in the school, conducts the religious exercises daily and oversees the printing of a student paper to which he furnishes a monthly sermon. He has written many hymns and poems although none have caught the popular fancy like the "God be with you" one. Dr. Rankin is of Scotch descent. His ancestors are of sturdy New England stock. In 1848 Dr. Rankin graduated from Middlebury college and in 1854 from the theological school at Andover. His pastorates were at Potsdam, N. Y., St. Albans, Vt., Lowell, Mass., Boston and Washington. For fifteen years he preached to crowded congregations in Washington. He left the pastorate then to take up his work at Howard University. His literary work is of a high rank. He has published a volume of German translations and one little Scotch poem of his, "The Babe," has been published in a volume of gems of poetry. His work has been varied and successful. He has touched human life at many points but nowhere so successfully as in the great hymn which may truthfully be called a song that captured Christendom.

Mary Wilkins has an international fame through her stories of plain New England life. She has grasped the essence of New England character and placed it before the world in simple, direct language. There is wonderful art in her writing but it is art so simple and sincere that it seems pure nature. Miss Wilkins lives at Randolph, Massachusetts, where she was born. The greater part of her life was passed at Brattleboro, Vermont, but upon the death of her father she returned to her early home in Massachusetts, where she took up her residence with a life-long friend, Miss Mary Wales. Miss Wilkins has very fair hair with a touch of gold light in it, blue eyes and a fair, delicate complexion. She is very simple and direct in speech and speaks of her work in so simple a manner that one almost forgets the fame she has won. Her short stories are familiar to all magazine readers and have been translated into French, Italian and German. Her novel, *Pembroke*, is now running as a serial in a leading Paris publication and her other long story, *Jerome*, is being dramatized for the American stage. Miss Wilkins is alone in the world but seems to find occupation and diversion in her work. She rarely leaves Randolph and although she would be welcomed in the inner literary circles of the great cities she stays in her New England hills and in the midst of the life that she so accurately portrays. She says that she has a regular time to write but she never writes in it. She uses a type writer, or rather two, and has two different stories in progress at the same time. Her favorite among her stories is *Silence*, which is a dramatic picture of the Deerfield massacre during the old French wars. Her work is read to a little circle of her friends. Miss Wilkins has the faith in herself of all who really succeed. She believes that she has not yet done her best but that she can write the great American novel. She declares that this idea that she can do is her success. She never feels that she has done her best work. She says the one thing she could do was to write and her success has shown that she does this well.

The Princess Sada of Japan, daughter of Prince Michitaka is betrothed to the Prince Imperial and is therefore future Empress of Japan. She is cousin of the heir apparent to the throne and comes of a family from whose ranks many empresses have been chosen. The princess is but sixteen years of age and is of fine figure with the bright dark coloring of her

race. Her family is the Fujiward which traces its ancestry back for forty-seven generations. The family name means Wisteria Meadow. The trousseau comes from Europe, Japan and China. Japanese ladies of high rank always have a full outfit of European dresses in addition to the beautiful garments of crepe, embroidered silk and gauze that furnish the material for native costumes.

Olga Nethersole has aroused much discussion ever since her advent on the American stage. For the last few months New York City has been busy discussing the propriety of her new play *Sapho*. The actress and her manager were finally arrested at the instance of one of the daily papers that has

earned the appellation of "Yellow." Petitions were circulated asking that the play be suppressed. There is no censorship of plays in America and public opinion must decide the fate of any play. Miss Nethersole has received more free advertising than usually falls to the lot of stage favorites, but it is doubtful whether she is willing to accept the notoriety for fame. Miss Nethersole is a very hard worker and scorns the idea that acting holds any easy prizes. She has the habit common to all who succeed of discouraging any one from an attempt to enter her profession. It is natural that all who succeed should have a vivid realization of the hard steps that have led to success. Olga Nethersole has been on the stage ten years. She was a governess before she became an actress but in spite of the opposition of her family the wish was strong within her to try the stage. She had no acquaintance with theatrical people but finally made the acquaintance of a lady who through an actor friend purchased her a letter of introduction to a London manager. For three months she tried to present her letter and it was not until the letter had been in his possession for six weeks that she was granted a five minutes interview. Difficulties had led to the first step towards success for she left his presence with a part and the promise of an engagement. The play in which she appeared was called *Harvest*. She was ambitious to play in London but for two years she travelled around the provinces working with an earnestness that was almost desperation. She played many parts with a travelling company that gave a different play each night. She was asked to take a new part at twenty-four hours' notice. All night she studied the part, rehearsed it once and played it that night. A London critic happened to be in the audience and gave her a most favorable notice in a London paper. A London engagement came within a month. The fight was not yet won, for the London critics were chary of praise, but the three years she passed as a member of a London stock company were the most comfortable of her stage experience. Miss Nethersole was not content to enjoy the favorable tolerance of the London audiences. Her restless ambition wished a larger recognition. She organized a company and journeyed seventeen thousand miles to Australia. The burden of the success or failure of the company rested with her. She succeeded and returned to London to become leading lady in the stock company of the Garrick theater. Miss Nethersole came to America and was at once declared one of the leading emotional actresses of the day. She says she used to spend the time when she was not on the stage in standing in the wing, watching the work of the others and endeavoring to gain ideas from it. She was rarely without a copy of some standard play in her hand and could have played any of the leading roles at almost a moment's notice. Among her cherished mementoes are two letters; one from the celebrated John Toole and the other from Sir Henry Irving. Mr. Toole strongly urged her not to take the stage as a profession, but Irving encouraged her, but at the same time pointed out the difficulties of the way. It is certain that the place Miss Nethersole has won at the top has come through strenuous effort. One is led to believe more and more strongly in the idea that the genius that wins in the world of to-day is solely the genius for hard work.

Whenever one who has won what the world acknowledges as success speaks of the steps, it is the same story—work, work, work. Courage that is never daunted, patience that knows no end, belief in yourself—and work. Miss Nethersole has succeeded because she would not understand discouragement and refused to be content with even moderate success.

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Instruments, Drums, Uniforms, & Supplies. Write for catalog, 446 illustrations, **FREE!** It gives information for musicians and new bands. **LYON & HEALY, 28 Adams St., CHICAGO.**

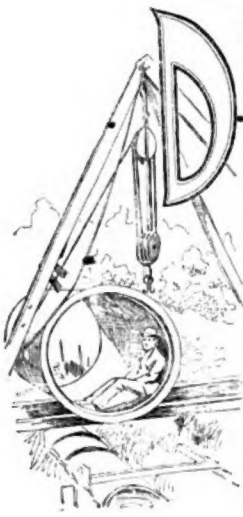
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The Metropolitan Water System.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



URING the years of 1893 and 1894 it became apparent that radical steps must be shortly taken to insure a better and much increased supply of water for the City of Boston and its suburban cities and towns. It was with this object in view that the Governor appointed a commission which became known as the Metropolitan Water Board.

The suggestion which met with the approval of this Board, and which since has been acted upon, was the taking of the waters of the South Branch of the Nashua River to meet the greater demands brought about by the increasing population

and the deteriorating quality of the water being used at that time.

The point at which it was determined to tap the Nashua River was twelve miles from the Sudbury Reservoir, which at that time was in process of construction by the City of Boston.

It was deemed advisable by the Board to make connection with the Sudbury System at as early a date as permanent and satisfactory work would permit, in order that a means of satisfying the increasing demands might be available in case a year of drouth should necessitate an addition to the existing water supply.

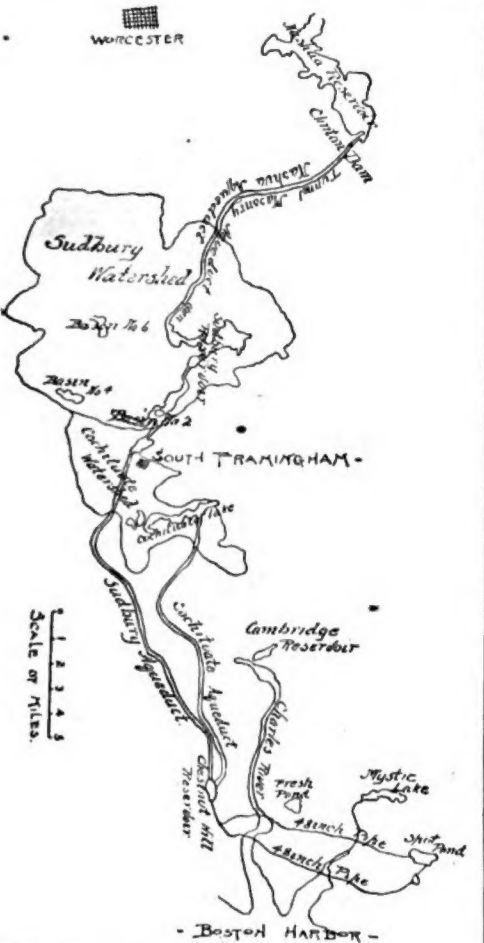
In February 1896 the contract for building the first two miles of the Nashua Aqueduct, so called, was awarded, and work was immediately commenced. This contract called for a tunnel ten feet and ten inches high, and twelve feet and two inches wide, and it was built through solid rock the entire distance. The cost was \$370,826. In May the contracts for constructing the seven miles of covered masonry joining the aforesaid tunnel were awarded and work was pushed forward with vigor. The cost of this section was \$721,580.60. The last contract calling for the construction of three miles of open channel reaching to the Sudbury Reservoir was awarded in September, and on March 7, 1897, the work was completed so that the waters of the Nashua River were admitted to the aqueduct, joining the waters of the Sudbury System. The cost of this open channel was \$89,470. The total cost of this aqueduct was \$1,246,552.85, including the amount paid for a bridge over the Assabet River.

This aqueduct is capable of carrying 300,000,000 gallons of water per day, and during 197 days following its opening, the average amount of water that passed through it daily was nearly 50,000,000 gallons, which amount was sufficient to supply the Metropolitan District, combined with the existing resources.

Work on the Sudbury Reservoir had meanwhile been carried on, completing that already performed by the City of Boston, so that when the water from the Nashua River was introduced through the Nashua Aqueduct, it was filled early in April. This reservoir has a capacity of 7,500,000,000 gallons; thus it will be readily seen that it is possible to fill this reservoir, supposing it to be empty, in twenty-five days, the Nashua Aqueduct running to its full capacity day and night.

In time of drouth, however, the Nashua River could not be drawn upon to any great extent, and it was to guard against such a possibility, that the Board advised the building of an immense reservoir at the head of the Nashua Aqueduct.

The land decided upon and purchased for this purpose embraces considerable portions of



several townships—Boylston, West Boylston, Clinton and Sterling. At the time of purchase there were standing upon this land six school-houses, four churches and two hundred and twenty-four dwelling-houses. The Commonwealth paid \$1,906,734.22. It covers an area

approximating six and one half square miles, and will have a coast line of about thirty-five miles. The water at its deepest point will be one hundred and twenty-nine feet deep, and the average depth will be forty-six feet. Many hills will be covered to a greater or less depth by the water from the Nashua River, and those exceeding the height of one hundred and twenty-nine feet will either be partly removed, or rise above the waters as islands, of which there will undoubtedly be a considerable number. This reservoir will contain 63,000,000,000 gallons of water, or more than eight times the storage capacity of the Sudbury Reservoir, proposed by the City of Boston.

All organic matter, stumps, logs and debris, and every vestige of loam is being removed, the matter as far as possible being used in the construction of a great dam at Clinton, and its adjacent dikes. Thousands of Italians are at work and on the whole this immense work is being carried along as fast as the contracts demand.

The dam at Clinton extends across the valley to the distance of twelve hundred and fifty feet. It is being built of masonry and is built upon solid rock foundations. The maximum height of the water line above the surface of the ground will be one hundred and eighty-four feet. Lest a disaster similar to that occurring at Johnstown Penn., should come to pass in the course of time, the work has been carried on with the most scrupulous care, every stone being placed in position under the eye of the most trusted foremen that the State can employ.

To the North and South of this dam great dikes are being built, which shall prevent the water from spreading out on either side of the dam.

Perhaps no better idea of the extent of the Metropolitan Water Works can be given than that shown on page 19, in the Fourth Annual Report of the Metropolitan Water Board:

"At 12 o'clock on the first day of January, 1898, the Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Metropolitan Water Act, took possession of Chestnut Hill Reservoir and pumping station, and all the lands, reservoirs, dams, aqueducts, pumps and other property held by the City of Boston westward of Chestnut Hill Reservoir, for the purposes of storing and supplying water and protecting its purity, including Lake Cochituate and the Cochituate Aqueduct, the Sudbury basins and Sudbury Aqueduct, and the Mystic Lake Aqueduct, pumping station and reservoir. The lands taken were situated in the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, Middlesex and Worcester. All these works were added to those which had been previously acquired and constructed by the Board, and the whole constitutes the Metropolitan Water Works."

Upon taking possession of the works held by the City of Boston, rigid examinations were made regarding the sanitary conditions connected with the same. Hundreds of instances of pollution of water were abated, and stringent regulations governing the future care of the water supply were passed by the Board.

Upon the examination of the water of the Mystic Lake it was found that its inferior quality would prove a menace to the health of those who used it. No steps could be taken that would improve its condition to any extent, and there were reasons for believing that it would deteriorate in spite of the best care and regulation. Therefore it was deemed best to discontinue its use altogether, and in accordance with the decision of the Board this was done.

Certain sections of the Metropolitan Districts could not be supplied with water on account of their elevation, and these, with the exception of one part of Roxbury, have been supplied through the use of more powerful pumping engines than those in use at the time of purchase from the City of Boston.

A High Service Reservoir is being constructed in the Middlesex Fells, about 2,500 feet southeasterly from Spot Pond, and will be 137 feet above the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, and 117 feet above Spot Pond, and it will have a capacity of over 38,000,000 gallons.

The cities and towns embraced in the Metropolitan District are at the present time: Boston, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Newton, Quincy, Somerville, Belmont, Hyde Park, Melrose, Revere, Watertown, Winthrop, Swampscott and Nahant. To supply these towns, especially the remote ones, it was necessary to lay an immense amount of water-pipes; these varied from four inch to sixty-one inch, and their weight far exceeds the hundred thousand tons mark. Our initial cut gives a good idea of the size of the large mains

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Bicycles, sewing machines, house furnishings, ladies' or gentlemen's watches, cameras, mandolins, guitars, violins, silverware, dinner sets, guns, and your choice of a hundred other articles, all guaranteed. Simply introduce a few boxes of our unexcelled toilet soaps and any of them are yours. Send no money. We trust you. Girls and boys do as well as older people. Write at once for full information. We mail handsome illustrated catalog free. Address Great Northern Soap Works, 24 Lake St., Oak Park, Ill.

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Send your name and address and we will mail you our catalogue. Select any style Oxford sewing machine and we will send it by prepaid freight 30 days' free trial, with all attachments and twenty years' guarantee. Easy running. Does light or heavy work as good as a \$60.00 machine. Buy from factory. SHEPHERD MFG. CO., H-294 22d St., Chicago.

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Here's One on the Pneumatic Plan for Just One Dollar, Made Entirely of Wood and Metal.
Stained and polished to represent mahogany, has all improvements, exposed metal parts, heavily plated. Same size as regular Carbine. Is designed for shot, which can be bought for a trifling expense anywhere. Works on the pneumatic spring scientific plan. Loads at Breech. Shoots with accuracy. Has the force and precision of any magazine gun. Can be used with perfect safety by men, women and children. No horrible accidents by careless handling. Kills birds and small game. Just right for hunting where silence is wanted. Brass tubes, air chamber, and heavy metal springs. Endorsed by officers of the Army and Navy as the best mechanical rifle ever produced. Used on practice ships in place of regular magazine rifles. Boys are delighted with it and prefer it to a larger gun. Can be kept in your room to protect the household if you dislike to have firearms around. Absolutely no danger. Perfect workmanship guaranteed in each gun. We will send this paper a year and this rifle complete and sent carefully packed for \$1.00.
SPECIAL OFFER. Send us a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25 cents each, and we will send you one of these rifles free as a premium, all charges paid. Address NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department. No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this prize offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *Comfort*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

W. J. Showalter,	\$3.00
Hester V. Grey,	2.50
Otho A. Brock,	2.00
Mittie A. Schoolfield,	1.50
C. C. Prince,	1.00

"The spring comes slowly up this way,"
"When proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything,"
"The uncertain glory of an April day"
besprent with April dew."
"Unlocks the flowers to deck the laughing soil."

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

What can I say that will so well suit the season as do these utterances of the poets? So leaving them to be my spokesmen this month I will at once proceed to unfold my budget of letters for your pleasure and satisfaction. Our first one leads us into the beautiful valley of Virginia—one of the "garden-spots of the world." Our cousin says:

Dear Cousins and Aunt Minerva:
"I feel sure you will welcome a newspaper man into your midst to tell you of the great and beautiful valley of Virginia. I know that my audience is a large one and made up of the most intelligent people in Uncle Sam's broad dominions, but with the consciousness that my subject is as interesting as the audience is large I shall, without the least embarrassment, pull aside the great curtain of distance and give to the millions of *Comfort* readers a glimpse of this great valley—the granary of the world; the region that witnessed one of the most remarkable campaigns known to the annals of war; its history a proud one, its soil fertile, its scenery beautiful, its people busy, prosperous and peaceful, the Valley of Virginia stands at the forefront among the valleys of the world."

"The eye of civilization was first cast upon it when Spotswood and his knights of the Golden Horseshoe beheld it from the crest of the Blue Ridge mountains and took back with them to Williamsburg such a goodly report, like Joshua of old, that the tide of civilization began to flow into it. It was then a primeval forest. Now we behold green fields, thriving towns, beautiful streams, fine country homes, in short, all that goes to make up a charming and diversified scene."

"A short time ago President and Mrs. McKinley passed through the valley and Mr. McKinley pronounced it one of the finest trips he ever made. Join with me now and we will take a similar trip. "Here we are at Harpers Ferry, the key to the northern entrance to the valley, the stage upon which the first act in the Civil War was enacted. Then we come to Winchester, the scene of so many bloody frays in that war. It was here that President McKinley was made a man during the war. Cedar Creek and Kernstown, scenes of desperate en-



THE POTOMAC NEAR CUMBERLAND.

counters and hard-fought battles in days gone by, the former the scene of the great ride of Sheridan in which he turned defeat into victory and won for himself undying fame. Thoroughfare Gap is passed. To the west of us is Orkney Springs, one of the most noted mineral springs in the United States. Then comes New Market, the scene of the rout of Sigel and his troops by the boys of the Virginia Military Institute who occasioned the remark by Gen. Grant "They rob the cradle and the grave." Then there's Powell's Fort in the fastness of the Massanutten Mountain which George Washington pronounced the strongest natural fortification in America. Not far away to the east are the famed Luray Caverns rivaling the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky in extent and surpassing it in beauty. Massanutta Gertrude Cave and the Weyers Cave are not many miles away. Close at hand are the Massanutta Springs famed for their medicinal waters, and Rawley Springs which have been called "The Pyramont of America." There we see the battle-fields of Port Republic and Cross Keys. It was at these places that Stonewall Jackson defeated the armies of Banks, Shields and Milroy in detail, each larger than his own; and not a little of the unsurpassable glory which gathered about his name was won on this field.

"Hastening on we come to Lexington, the Athens of Virginia. There we find the West Point of the

South, the Virginia Military Institute, pronounced by military critics to be the second military school of the United States, and the Washington and Lee University, founded by the Father of our Country and afterward presided over by that hero of peace as well as of war, Robert E. Lee. Some forty miles southward is the Natural Bridge, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. We have traveled only two hundred miles in our journey. "Is it any wonder that we Virginians are proud of our valley?"

W. J. SHOWALTER, Harrisonburg, Va.

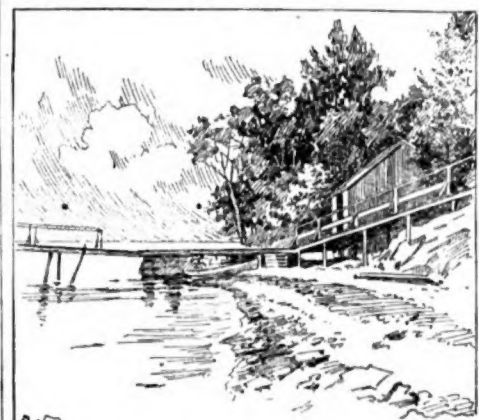
Our next letter still dwells on "Nature's beauty spots," but takes us to Wisconsin to find them.

"Nature's footprints everywhere, but her home is surely there." The visitor to this ideal spot leaves with a hazy idea that the poet referred to Kish-ke-kwan-te-no rather than 'fair Killarney.'

"Not only has nature been lavish in her endowments, but man has generously bestowed three names: the Kish-ke-kwan-te-no of the society element; the more plebeian Benderville; and, in historical parlance, Benderville. The pretty Indian name seems to describe the place best, and is far more alluring to the summer tourist."

"Kish-ke-kwan-te-no lies twelve miles from the historic old city of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is perched on cliffs nearly one hundred feet above the shore. From these cliffs one may gaze far out over Green Bay for miles, the broad expanse of glistening water dotted here and there with lake steamers. If one tires of marine views, magnificent groves of birch, cedar, oak and hickory lend themselves readily to landscape scenery equally entrancing. Though a number of summer cottages nestle in these groves, and a hotel overlooks the bay, nature is yet pre-eminent, and the picturesque habitations of man do not detract from her beauty."

"Naturally, this romantic spot has its legend. The Sauks and Outagamis once dwell in an old fort here and in that day the forests abounded in deer, and with fish from the bay, their simple Indian wants were plentifully supplied."



KISH-KE-KWAN-TE-NO AT BASE OF CLIFF.

"One night there landed on the shore many fighting men of the Chippewa, Menominee, Ottawa and Pottawatomie tribes; their canoes lined the shore for two miles, and at daylight the fighting began. The besieged battled bravely, but the water supply was cut off by the warriors on the beach, and all efforts to obtain water were fruitless. The intense agony of thirst was made more endurable by the burning sun and the cruel taunts of the besiegers. Finally, after fasting ten days, a young chief had a dream. A young man, clothed in white, appeared to him, and said: 'Fear not; I will deliver you. At midnight I will cast a deep sleep over your enemies. Then go forth silently, and you shall escape.' When night came, unbroken silence prevailed in the camp of the enemy. All but a few unbelievers stole forth into the night and made their escape. Those who remained met a speedy death, when day dawned, at the hands of the besiegers."

HESTER V. GREY.

Mabel Holbrook, of Everett, Neb., sends us a poem on the death of a friend, but as we do not use poetry I can only thank her for it.

Miss M. M. Abbott, of Perdido P. O., Ala., offers to exchange pressed leaves for old papers, but I am afraid she does not read *Comfort* carefully, or she would observe that we no longer have an exchange column.

Miss Belle Hubbard, of Piermont, N. H., must write me again, and tell me more clearly of her wishes. I do not quite understand her letter to me.

Now let us visit our southern friends.

"Mammoth Spring, in the northern part of Arkansas, is a circular opening extending almost perpendicularly into the earth at the foot of a hill. This opening is eighty feet in diameter and its bottom has never been found, though a ninety-pound anvil has been lowered to a distance of eighty-six feet. From this large aperture there gushes a stream of water at the rate of twenty thousand cubic feet a minute. A dam of solid masonry nearly twenty feet in height has been constructed across the basin a few hundred yards below the spring, and the water thus confined forms a lake that covers an area of eighteen acres. This lake has an average depth of fifteen feet and is as clear and blue as the sky. A steamboat for pleasure riding is kept on it, and a ride on this around the spring gives one a good idea of its size. The town is on the west side of the spring and the depot on the east, and a bridge connects the two."

"An interesting phenomenon of the spring is that neither its volume nor its temperature ever vary. In the hottest days of summer and the coldest days of winter the temperature is fifty-seven degrees Fahrenheit, and in wet seasons or dry the flow is constant."

"At the east end of the dam is a large flouring mill, whose daily capacity is five hundred barrels. A cotton factory, employing two hundred hands, stands at the other end of the dam, while an electric light plant, which furnishes electric light for the town, is situated a mile down the river. Both the spring and the river below contain many fish of rare species."

MITTIE A. SCHOOLFIELD, Ten Mile, Arkansas.

Our next letter is an interesting account of one of the works, not of nature, but of men. The illustration which accompanies this letter is taken from an old drawing done in 1846, about a year after the embankments were finished and the water turned on. It will be noticed from this that the authorities in charge of the work disregarded the orders of the legislature as to the felling of the forests but simply girdled the trees and left them to die standing—cabins and houses were also left standing, to rot and fall away into the water.

"Lake Mercer is the largest artificial body of water in the world. It lies in western Ohio, about midway between Toledo and Cincinnati, and was built in 1837 to 1841 for a feeder of the Miami Extension Canal. It is nine miles long, from three to five miles wide, and has an area of twenty-seven and one-half square miles, and an average depth of about ten feet."

"It was built at a cost of about \$90,000, by grading a levee or dam, one and one-half miles long, on the west of a large prairie. Long before the building of this reservoir several adventurers bought land and settled within the prairie now forming the reservoir, and were still living there upon their farms when the banks were completed. The member of legislature from this district introduced a resolution declaring that no water should be let into the reservoir until the same should be cleared of timber and the land paid for. An appropriation

of \$20,000 was made by the legislature to pay the owners for the land, but this sum was squandered by officials and speculators, and the water was let in, submerging all the farms, destroying wheat crops and driving the owners off their lands."

"This outrage was too much to be borne, and the people of Mercer county, after trying in vain to persuade the authorities to make good the damage done them, assembled in crowds, armed with



LAKE MERCER, FROM AN OLD DRAWING IN 1846.

spades and other tools, and in a few hours had opened an outlet through which the water flowed off their prairie. It cost the state \$17,000 to repair these damages."

"The reservoir now forms a beautiful artificial lake, abounding in different kinds of fish, which, with the wild fowl which gather to feed on the fish, afford generous opportunities to the sportsman. During the winter the best of ice is cut from its surface in large quantities; its many natural beauties are beginning to draw crowds of summer visitors and pavilions and cottages are becoming numerous in the vicinity."

OTHO A. BROCK, China, Ohio.

Here is an entertaining letter from our Mississippi cousin.

"There are garden parties and garden parties, but the one given here recently by the members of Trinity church would compare well with the best. The prettiest grounds in town were used and on wires stretched among the trees about the yard were hung gayly colored Japanese lanterns, making a scene beautiful as fairyland. Under the great spreading oak trees were tables strewn with curios and refreshments of all kinds, and near by under a tent was the museum, where quaint things were found, and sleight-of-hand tricks were performed by one who knew the business."

"But best of all, and the most instructive part of this unique party was the circulating library. Those taking part in the library came dressed, or wore something to represent some book, and a prize was given the one who guessed the most books represented and told the authors of the same."

"A dainty little maiden wore 'A lilac sunbonnet,' and a stately matron rustled about 'In silk attire,' one of the boys wore 'A yellow aster' in his button-hole, and 'A woman in white' was easily guessed, while 'The three feathers' pinned on her dress distinguished her from the other girls clad in white, and gave the title of another book. A wise little girl represented several books: she wore 'The black robe,' 'A golden heart' was at her neck, she had 'White wings' and upon her head was a wreath of 'Thorns and orange blossoms.' 'The iron mask' was worn by a young man; in his tie was 'The coral pin' and he carried 'The mistletoe bough' in his hand. Two girls wore flags and roses in their hair and so were 'Under both flags' and 'Under the rose.'"

"Many other books were guessed and caused a great deal of pleasure to all participating. The prize was a nicely bound book."

"This party would be just as enjoyable if it took place in the house, and during cold weather rather more so." LOVELLA SPENCE, Pass Christian, Miss.



THE CLIFF, KISH-KE-KWAN-TE-NO.

Next on the list comes a description of that beautiful old Southern city, Savannah. The writer of this letter is a cousin of several years' standing, but it is so long since we heard from him that I feared we had lost him. I welcome him back most heartily.

"When Nature drew between land and sea the boundary line that marks the eastern edge of this continent, she furnished the site for the beautiful city of Savannah with all the requisites of a great seaport center. A good deep-water harbor and a rich tributary country attracted hither the founder of Georgia, James Edward Oglethorpe, to whom George II. granted all the country between the Savannah and the Altamaha rivers, with an indefinite extension westward. In 1732 Oglethorpe located his first capital on the site of the present city of Savannah. The town grew but slowly, languished, and in 1752 the original charter was given up and it became a royal province."

"At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Savannah was the youngest city in any of the original colonies, but had become sufficiently powerful to take a part in the long struggle. In 1778 it was captured by the British and held by them until the close of the war. In 1779 a French fleet and army aided by American forces laid siege to the city, but were compelled to withdraw after a brave assault of nearly two months. During the Civil War her ports were blockaded by Federal forces for four years. Sherman ended his 'march to the sea' here, and the Federal troops held possession during the remaining few months of the war."

"In the last twenty years it has grown rapidly and now consists of a population of about seventy thousand, with a property valuation of \$50,000,000 and a commerce of \$130,000,000."

"Savannah is eighteen miles from the ocean, and is at the head of ship navigation on the Savannah river. It is the chief naval-stores port of the world and the third largest cotton port of America. It is also headquarters for five lines of steamships, four lines of river steamers and three great railway systems of the South. It has more than seven miles of wharves. The cotton trade cuts a vast figure in the prosperity of this city. The cotton exports last year amounted to one million, one hundred and thirty-one thousand and fourteen bales, valued at \$36,612,612. There were also sent out three hundred and twenty-nine thousand, four hundred and sixty-six casks of turpentine, and seven hundred and ninety-four thousand, four hundred and seventy-six barrels of rosin, their value being about \$7,000,000."

"The city is beautifully decorated with monuments, among which may be mentioned that of the Revolutionary heroes in Johnson Square, Pulaski in Monterey Square, the cornerstones of each being laid by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1825, the Jasper statue in Madison Square, and the tall Confederate monument upon a terrace in the

parade ground. The fine library of the Georgia Historical Society contains twenty-two thousand volumes, devoted largely to the history of Georgia and her neighboring commonwealths. The Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, founded through a bequest of a young lady who bequeathed the family mansion and \$10,000 for the purpose, has the most comprehensive art collection in the entire South."

"As to the churches, the largest and most costly is the handsome Roman Catholic church; then there is St. Patrick's church and Orphan Asylum, the Independent Presbyterian church and the first Presbyterian, fronting Monterey Square, also the two Methodist churches which are as old as the city, for here John Wesley founded the first Sunday-school in the world in 1736."

"The Savannah Theatre is the oldest place of amusement in America, it having been built in 1818, and has witnessed triumphs of the Booth family, Forrest and others. The chief pleasure ground is the Forsyth Park, laid out in 1851, covering some twenty acres of ground; here President McKinley reviewed the volunteer and regular troops during his Southern trip last December. The streets, shaded by large trees, are well paved and excellent for driving and cycling. Ocean and river resorts attract thousands in the summer months. A model quarantine plant, pure artesian water, cremation of all garbage, and the drainage of low lands around the city make it very healthy."

C. C. PRINCE, Montgomery, Ala.

Margarette Spencer, of Cleveland, Ohio, has made a little mistake. It is another lady of the same name who was the fortunate winner of the prize in this department; but I shall be very glad to give a prize to our Cleveland cousin if she will but write me such a letter as to earn it.

And now my space is full, and we must separate and go about our accustomed duties and pleasures until the "merry month of May" calls us together again. AUNT MINERVA.

A POCKET MIRROR.

See yourself as others see you. One of our large imitation aluminum covered pocket mirrors for the boys and girls at school, for the teachers, for men in the woods. Just 5 cents for one with our latest premium supplement.

Golden Moments, Augusta, Maine.

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OUR SPECIAL 90-DAY OFFER, which is apart from the above: Send us your name and address (no money); we will send you 20 wicks, postpaid; sell them at 5 cts. each and remit us \$1.00. We will mail to your address, **FREE**, a Beautiful Gold Plated WATCH-CHAIN AND CHARM, also a Handsome Gold Finished Ring. **ELECTRICAL WICK CO.**, Dept. B, Orange, N. J.

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A HANDSOME MUSTACHE or fine beard grows on the smooth face in 3 weeks, or money refunded. Baldness cured at once. Our **TURKISH HAIR GROWER** does it. We extract every hair. Agents everywhere. Send the coupon direct. 2c. for 10c. by mail. Address, **TRIMONT MAN'G CO.**, 214, BOSTON, MASS.

MAKE MONEY free. Catalogue and terms 10c. **J. F. FAGAN**, St. Joseph, Michigan.

Free This magnificent Solid Gold shell ring, set with a brilliant simulated Diamond free, if you will sell 6 sets of our Beauty Pins (each set with an exquisite Jewel) at 25c a set. Send name & address. No money wanted. We run all risk and take back what you cannot sell. Also an extra handsome present if you write to-day. The Maxwell Co., Dept. 210 St. Louis, Mo.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE little silk purse which we illustrate is quite the fad, at present, made in any color desired, this one being in black ornamented with steel beads which form the star and the fringe. The top and chain are of oxidized silver. This picture shows the purse nearly full size, and the directions herewith are for a purse of this size. If a larger one is desired, anyone familiar with crocheted work will be able to enlarge in the right places, from these directions.

1 spool purse twist, 1 bunch No. 9 steel beads, steel crochet needle No. 0. Thread a sewing needle with silk from spool and string four strings of beads. Remove needle and slip beads down so as to leave a yard or more of silk, and work from spool, not breaking off the silk. With crochet needle make a chain of 5 and join, put 2 in each stitch making 7. Next row put bead and plain stitch in each one, making 7 beads around. Next row put 2 beads and 1 plain in the last each time. Next row, 3 beads and widening stitch in last; so on till you have 6 beads. Next two plain, then 5 beads and so on till you have 1 bead, 2 rows plain round. Make two sides like this and crochet together with 10 bead fringe, making a single stitch between; put clasp on top.

This picture of a hen is the latest in holders. From the picture it will be easy to see the shape, and four pieces of cretonne are cut out of this shape, measuring about five inches at the highest



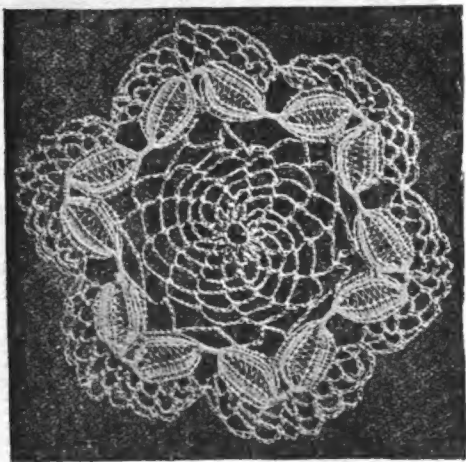
HOLDER.

and also the widest points. Two of these pieces are stitched together from the throat to the point of beak, over top of head and back to the tail. The other two pieces are cut off from the head to the tail, over the back, starting with nothing at the tail and gradually taking off from the back, toward the head, enough to take off the head entirely when you get to that point. Then stitch these two pieces (which form the inside of the holder) to the outside pieces already stitched down the back, around the edges. This will leave the sides of the inside pieces just trimmed off free, and in this opening the bird is stuffed with layers of cotton batting, not too thickly, but enough to keep the heat of the iron from the hand. When stuffed, sew up this seam over and over. Then draw through the top of head red worsted to represent the comb, cutting off the ends sharply on each side of head. Insert two black beads for eyes, and at the tail end sew on a loop made of the cretonne, for hanging up the holder. This also looks like a tail. This holder not only affords a new model for use at fairs and sales, but is also exceedingly comfortable to use, as it fits so well over the handle of the iron and does not slip off as a straight, flat holder does.

POINT LACE HANDKERCHIEF.

This handkerchief is made with point lace braid and crochet, instead of point lace stitches. The beauty of this is, it will look just as well after it has been washed, while if made with point lace stitches it never looks nicely after it has been cleaned.

Material, 3 yards point lace braid like illustration; it costs 8 cents per yard. One spool cotton thread, No. 100; piece of linen 9 1/2 inches square. Cut the braid for each piece with thirteen of the oval figures; lap the two ends so it will make exactly 12 of the ovals in each circle; bring two together as in illustration and fasten with needle and thread, making six scallops; crochet 3 times around the outside, 5 chain, catching down with sc. The last row between the scallops make the sc over the other two rows; this makes a good shaped scallop. For the inside part make a chain of 8 stitches and join.

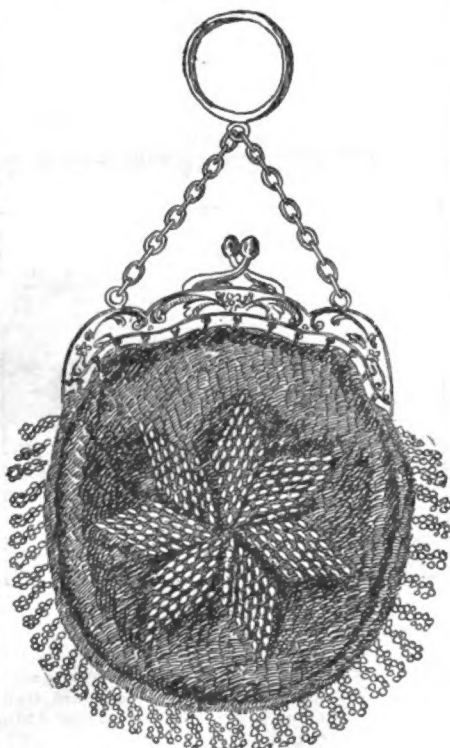


CROCHET POINT LACE.

1. 5 ch. join to center, repeat until you have 12 of these made.
2. 3. Rows the same.
4. 6 chain, join to previous row; repeat.
5. 7 chain, join to previous row; repeat.
6. 8 chain, join to previous row; repeat.
7. The last row, make 5 ch. join to the lace braid as shown in illustration; then 5 ch and join to previous row; repeat until the outside

braid is all fastened to center; each row must have 12 of the chain loops, then it is just right to fasten to the 12 ovals in braid; be careful not to crochet loose; if you have followed directions it will just center of lace; if it is too large you have made it too loose. Press with a warm iron, or a cold one will do if left on a short time. It takes 12 of these pieces, one for each corner and two between. Fasten the sides together; this will leave two scallops for outside and two to lay on handkerchief. Cut a piece of handkerchief linen nine and one-half inches square; lay the border on after they are all fastened together; with fine linen floss buttonhole the scallops that lay on the handkerchief, taking stitches through the linen; afterwards very carefully cut away the linen that is under the lace work.

Almost every housewife has bits of silk laid away which can be utilized for little except blocks for a quilt. Perhaps it may be thought that there is not a sufficient quantity to make it worth while to begin, but it is a matter of surprise how far these pieces will go, and as the work is usually taken up at odd times, the supply may be added to quite materially as the work advances. By the method of making which I shall describe, and which is a new departure in quilt making, the work takes on an added fascination from the fact that when all the blocks are pieced and set together the quilt is entirely done, even to wadding and lining, and is ready for use. Nor is the advantage in making all; the finished quilt is by far the handsomest of any which we have seen. Each block is cut in the shape of a square, five inches being a good size. If any of the silk pieces are not large enough to cut the entire block they may be pieced diagonally across from one corner to another. After the block is cut fold it into a triangle; if it has been pieced fold it along the seam thus made. The next step is to sew it along the diagonal edge and one of the straight edges; then stuff it as full of cotton as you wish, making it puff out well, and close the remaining side. This makes one completed block. The remainder are made in exactly the same way. If you have much black silk, make half your blocks of that, and if you lack variety in the remaining silks, color a part of them with Diamond dyes. Put the blocks together in squares by sewing two together along the bias edges, using one black and one contrasting color in each, or if you do not have much black, put a light and a dark shade together. The squares are to be joined next, using as many as are necessary to make the desired size. A feather-stitching of Asiatic floss may be worked between the blocks and around the edge, if you wish the quilt to be especially handsome. When finished it is practically alike on both sides, and being so deeply padded, looks as though filled with down and quilted. This method of making the quilt may be employed



ROUND SILK PURSE.

with simpler material than silk, and will be found much prettier than when made in the ordinary way. A very dainty quilt of this style, the origin of whose cover would never have been guessed, was made from thin flour sacks. These when washed were almost like cheesecloth. They were colored a delicate shade of blue with Diamond dyes, and then made up into blocks as described. The outer edge was feather stitched with Asiatic floss of the same delicate tint. No more attractive quilt for the baby's crib can be made than one of this style, using a smaller pattern for the blocks, and such an one will be simple to experiment upon if you wish to try the effect of the new method of making before attempting one of the ordinary size.

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I noticed in the Christian Standard that a reader had been very successful selling "Baird's Non-Alcoholic Flavoring Powders," and think my experience will be interesting. It is wonderful how much better these new Fruit Flavors are than the liquid extracts sold in stores, if you stop to think that the Fruit Flavors cost only half as much. You use them for Custards, Cakes, Candies, Ices and etc. We used them ourselves and liked them so well, that I wrote to W. H. Baird & Co., 110 Century Bldg., St. Louis, Mo., for Samples and tried selling them to my neighbors. I began only a short time ago, but the Powders are fast becoming celebrated around here and I have built up a good trade from regular customers, often making over \$25.00 per week.

I never before knew of such an easy way of making money and would recommend any one having a little spare time to write to the above firm, as they will start you in business. Mrs. M. F.

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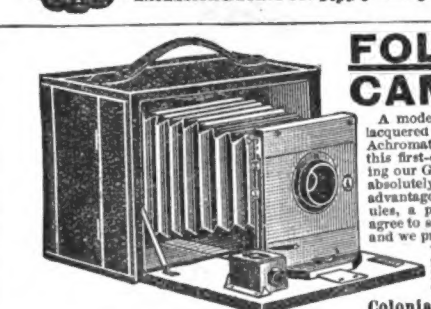
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- 1 Conventional design for Bulgarian work, for scarf ends, or dolly corners, 4x8 in.
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- 1 Floral spray for tea cloth or center piece, dollys, 6x8 1/2 inches.
- 1 Dog's head for art work, 1 1/2 x 2 inches.
- 1 design of Mountain pine, with motto (see illustration), 11x11 inches.
- 1 design American flags, 7x7 inches.
- 1 design Poppies and leaves, 4x10 inches.
- 1 design for picture frame, American flags, etc. (see illustration), 8x10 inches.
- 1 Ribbon and floral design for monogram, 2x3 1/2 in.
- 1 design Nasturtium, 2 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches.
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- 1 Conventional corner design, for table covers, etc., 9x9 inches.
- 1 Patriotic design for sofa pillow, American and Cuban flags, knapsacks and guns, 16x16 inches.
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- 1 Acorn design for scatter work.
- 1 Ribbon and Daisy design, 4x5 inches.
- 1 Conventional corner design, 8x8 inches.
- 1 Floral and bow-knot dolly design, 5x5 inches.



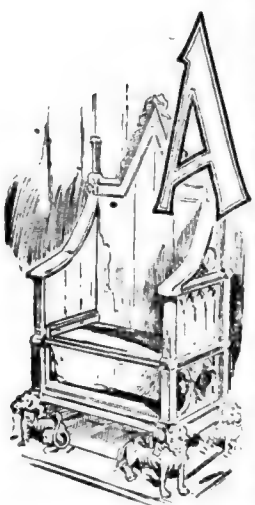
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THE CORONATION CHAIR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



REIGN like that of Queen Victoria's of over sixty years, has relegated the coronation chair of England to so little use that one may well be pardoned for forgetting that such a piece of royal furniture exists. King Edward's chair, as it is often called, is at least six hundred years old.

The last time the chair was used was at the fiftieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne. It was then, as has been the custom at every coronation for six hundred years, placed before the altar in Westminster Abbey and her Majesty sat in it. This is the place

where all the sovereigns of England, for centuries, have taken the solemn oath of office. On this occasion there was thrown over the chair a magnificent covering of cloth of gold and ermine, but that the people assembled to witness the ceremony might be sure it was the real coronation chair, and not a modern substitute, one corner of the covering was thrown back so as to leave a portion of the rudely carved and time-eaten old chair exposed to view.

Between its rare appearances on royal occasions the coronation chair sits quietly just behind the elaborately carved old stone screen behind the altar. This brings it within the shrine of Edward the Confessor, where it divides interest with the massive tomb of the latter, the battered sides of which show alike the reverence with which it has been held for years and the desire which visitors have had to carry away some part of it as a relic. The coronation chairs for there are two of them, stand behind a stout iron rail. Visitors are not now allowed to touch them, although it was not so very long ago that any one could obtain the privilege of sitting down in them at sixpence each. The second chair was made at the time of the dual coronation of William and Mary, and was made as nearly as possible an exact copy of the original chair except that the seat is about four inches higher. Mary, as the nearest of blood to the throne, was naturally assigned the original coronation chair. She was a large woman, quite a little taller than her husband. That the latter might not look ridiculously small, by contrast, as they sat side by side during the ceremony, his chair was built in this way to bring him up on a level with his august spouse. Another curious shift made necessary by this same inequality in size is shown in St. Isidore's Chapel, in the Abbey, where the famous wax effigies of so many of the English sovereigns are preserved. William and Mary stand side by side, here, and the king stands upon a little platform about five inches high, to increase his stature.

The original coronation chair was made by order of Edward I. in 1297. Since then every sovereign of England has been crowned in it, and it has never been taken out of the Abbey but once. That was when Cromwell was installed in it as Lord Protector, at Westminster Hall.

The chair is of oak, large and heavy. Originally it was elaborately painted and adorned with false jewels, but all this trimming has long ago disappeared except for gilding on the lions which form the feet, and it is now simply a very much battered old oak chair.

It is no light task to move the coronation chair around to the front of the altar, when it is to be used, for the old relic weighs several hundred pounds. This is owing to the fact that fastened just beneath the seat is the famous "Stone of Scone," upon which the old time kings of Scotland were crowned. This stone is 26 inches long, 16 wide, and 11 thick. It is fastened by iron clamps, beneath the seat so that the sovereign who sits in the chair sits on the stone also. If the old Scotch traditions could be believed this stone is something still more wonderful, nothing less, in fact, than the one on which Jacob rested his head at Bethel. The tradition said that Jacob's sons carried the stone to Egypt, from where it went to Spain with King Gathelos, son of Cerops, the builder of Athens. Even the imagination of a Scotchman, though, is not equal to accounting for all the time, and they simply say, next, of it, that the stone appeared in Ireland about 700 B. C. brought there by the Spanish king's son Simon Brech, at the time of his invasion of Ireland. There it was placed upon the sacred hill of Tara, and called Lia-Fail, the "fatal" stone, or "stone of destiny", because when the Irish kings were seated upon it for coronation it groaned aloud if the candidate was of royal race, but remained silent if he was a pretender. In 330 B. C., Fergus who was a Prince of Ireland and founded a monarchy in Scotland, carried the stone with him to that country. In 850 A. D. King Kenneth finally deposited it in the Monastery of Scone. There it became for centuries a source of veneration to the Scots, and their kings down to John Balliol were crowned upon it. They believed that so long as it remained in the country they would not be hopelessly conquered, and it was partly to discourage them, on account of this belief, that Edward I. when he overran Scotland, took the stone back with him to England. Since the two monarchies finally became one by the accession of James of Scotland to the throne of both, there has seemed to be a peculiar fitness in having the sovereigns of both countries crowned upon the stone, and in the chair. The romantic Scotch and English history of the stone is undoubted. So far as the earlier traditions are concerned the sad truth must be confessed that the relic is unmistakably of Scotch sandstone.

One of the most interesting things about the coronation chair, although one which few tourists ever see, now that the chair sits behind the rail, is an inscription cut in rude school boy letters upon the seat. The letters are at least an inch in height, and look like those carved upon the top of a desk at school. The inscription reads, "P. Abbott slept here, Jan. 3d. 1801." P. Abbott, it seems, was a Westminster School boy. There is a boarding school for boys run in connection with the Abbey, and has been for several centuries. This is supported by an endowment left for the purpose all those years ago, and vastly increased as the time has passed. Back at the beginning of this century one of the boys, P. Abbott, made a bet with another boy, that he dare stay in the Abbey all night alone. He watched his chance, hid behind some tomb, and got himself locked in. Then after all he was afraid that if he did not have some proof of his courage the other boy would not believe he had won the wager. So he spent the hours of the night, lighted by the lamp hung over the shrine of Edward the Confessor, carving his name and the history of the night, upon the coronation chair. All this is one of the well authenticated traditions of the Abbey, and

there seems to be no reason to doubt its truth, especially as the proof is on the chair, but ever since I saw the audacious inscription I have wished that the tradition had told us what was the punishment meted out for the irreverence, or whether it was not discovered until long years after the boy had left the school.

MAINE'S BIRCH TREES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



LARGE part of the wealth of Maine lies in her forests. Her pine lumber is known the world over and her winter lumber camps, her log drives and her sawmills furnish employment to thousands of men. When the paper mills began to build big sulphite mills in the Maine woods the price of spruce timber lands was doubled and in some cases trebled. Next in demand to spruce trees is the white birch, which is sawed into bars and shipped to Scotland to be made into thread spools. Nearly all the thread factories in the United States and more than half of those of Great Britain obtain their spools from Maine.

The story of the appearance in Maine of birch trees in any quantity is as follows—as told by one of the old settlers in that state: In the year in which Maine became a state, some French Canadians crossed the border between that state and Canada and settled on state lands in the woods near the Penobscot river, and defied all efforts to eject them. After five years of struggle with them the land office in Augusta, Maine, despatched two special constables to the disputed territory with orders to make a clean job of evicting the squatters. The constables were zealous, not to say spiteful men, and did their duty all too well. Not content with turning out the inhabitants of the little settlement and destroying their crops, they set fire to their dwellings and out-houses and did not leave the place until all were reduced to ashes.

But their satisfaction in the thoroughness of their work was short-lived and the evicted people thought themselves well revenged when flames were discovered bursting from the surrounding forest, the fire having caught from sparks from the ruined settlement. In a few hours the largest forest fire ever known in Maine was sweeping northward and doing incalculable damage to the lumber interests of the state. Ten million dollars' worth of pine and many square miles of hackmatack forests were burned, and the fire also ate ten feet deep into the accumulations of peat beneath the forests. It even crossed the line into New Brunswick, and did tremendous damage to life and property there.

So much for the damages; now for the gain. After the fire had burned itself out and the land had been given time to absorb the alkali of the ashes, about nine thousand square miles of the burned over district became covered with wild cherry and birch growth. The birches, aided by the "black knot," which was

imported from Europe, gradually choked out the cherry trees and obtained a clear field for their own growth. About fifty million board feet of birch spool bars are now yearly shipped out of Maine and the supply shows no signs of becoming exhausted.

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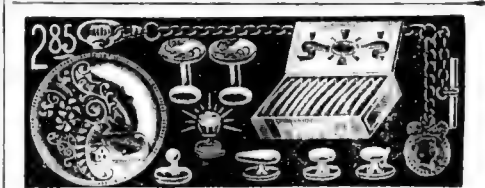
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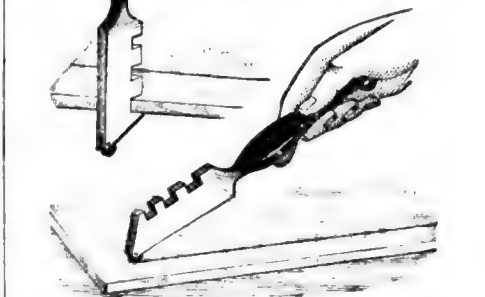
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gent's or ladies' bicycle, black, green or maroon color, whether 22 or 24-inch frame, whether our ACME JEWEL, outside joint, at \$13.75, or our ACME PRINCE, flush joint, two-piece hanger bicycle, exactly as illustrated, at \$14.75, and we will send the bicycle to your nearest railroad station by express or freight C.O.D., subject to examination. YOU CAN EXAMINE IT THOROUGHLY, call in any bicycle expert to examine it, and if not pronounced a strictly high grade 1900 model bicycle, the GREATEST BICYCLE BARGAIN EVER SEEN, the equal of bicycles that retail in your town at \$25.00 to \$40.00, far better than bicycles that are being widely advertised at \$18.00 to \$25.00; if you are convinced you are getting such a bicycle as you could not get elsewhere at anything like the price, pay your railroad agent OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE

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for the Acme Jewel, or...

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for the Acme Prince, exactly as illustrated, and freight or express charges, which will average about 50 to 75 cents for each 500 miles.

TEN DAYS' FREE TRIAL

After you pay agent our special price of \$13.75 or \$14.75, give the bicycle ten days' trial, during which time compare it with other bicycles that sell at double the price, and if you are not still satisfied that you have saved money and that it is the greatest bicycle value ever furnished, you can return it to us at our expense of freight or express charges both ways, and WE WILL IMMEDIATELY RETURN YOUR MONEY.

OUR CHALLENGE OFFER

Order this our 1900 Bicycle at \$13.75 or \$14.75 and you can then order a bicycle from any other house or houses advertised in this or any other paper, let the different bicycles come to your railroad station to be examined; examine and compare them side by side, and if our bicycle is not pronounced by everyone at least \$5.00 cheaper and \$10.00 better, you can return it to us at our expense.

YOU CAN MAKE \$500.00 BETWEEN NOW

AND FALL taking orders for our Acme Jewel and Acme Prince AT A PROFIT OF \$5.00 TO \$10.00 ON A WHEEL. Order the Acme Jewel at \$13.75, or the Acme Prince at \$14.75, and you can sell it the day you got it at \$18.00 to \$25.00 and then order another. Continue this work during the season and you can sell from fifty to one hundred bicycles, underselling every dealer in your section and make for yourself at least \$500.00.

OUR BINDING GUARANTEE AT \$13.75

and \$14.75 our Acme Jewel and Acme Prince are covered by a WRITTEN, BINDING ONE-YEAR GUARANTEE, (which accompanies every bicycle), by the terms and conditions of which, if any piece or part gives out within one year by reason of defect in material or workmanship, we will replace or repair it free of charge.

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Last year we sold nearly 50,000 bicycles. At least a number of our wheels went into every community. Some of your neighbors are riding our wheels. Ask them if they found the bicycle they bought of us last year perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and much cheaper than they could buy elsewhere. Consider that our wheels have been greatly improved and our price has been reduced to \$13.75 and \$14.75. IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT OUR ABILITY to furnish you a better wheel for less money than you can buy from any other house in Chicago, write to some friend in Chicago and ask them to come and examine our wheels, and then examine the wheels offered by other houses, and if they don't write you that we can SAVE YOU FROM \$5.00 TO \$20.00 on a bicycle, we will not expect your order. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

AS TO OUR RELIABILITY

We refer to the City National Bank and German Exchange Bank of New York, the Metropolitan National Bank or Corn Exchange Bank of National Bank of Chicago, any railroad company, business house or resident of Chicago AND TO OUR THOUSANDS OF CUSTOMERS IN EVERY STATE IN THE UNION.

DO NOT ORDER THIS BICYCLE

unless you expect to accept it and pay the railroad agent our special offer price of \$13.75 or \$14.75 and freight charges when received if you find it exactly as represented, perfectly satisfactory, a far better wheel for the money than you could possibly get elsewhere. We are anxious to receive your order; we know we can save you money and we only want to hear from those who are ordering in good faith, who mean business and who understand that \$13.75 and freight charges must be paid to the railroad agent before they can receive the bicycle. The railroad agent will not deliver this bicycle to you until you have paid him our special offer price, but we will return you \$13.75 or \$14.75 and all railroad charges if at any time within ten days you become dissatisfied for any cause whatsoever and you return the bicycle to us.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.) CHEAPEST SUPPLY HOUSE CHICAGO ON EARTH.

THE SOLDIER'S BRIDE.

OR

ONLY A SAD, SWEET MEMORY.

WORDS AND MUSIC BY E. NINIAN.

Author of "The Little Orphan's Prayer," "Mamma's In Heaven," etc.

Moderato.

1. She was a sol - dier's sweet - heart, pure as the morn - ing
2. Then came a ten - der mes - sage, say - ing his love was

Tempo Valse.

mf *f* *rit. e dim.*

dew, Home from the war to wed - der, hast - ened the lov - er true, Back to the field of
true, Borne by a wound - ed com - - rade, "These were his words to you, For our dear Flag and

rit. *a tempo.*

con - flict, du - ty bade him go, Kiss - ing his bride, he whis - pered, "Sol - diers must fight you know!"
Free - dom, love, I give my life, Shed not a tear, re - mem - ber, You are a sol - dier's wife."

rall.

REFRAIN.

On - ly a sad, sweet mem - o - ry, dar - ling, of by - gone years, On - ly a dream of you, dear. Kiss - ing a - way my tears; . . . "A

p

mf *rit.* *f a tempo.* *rall.* *p rit. e dim.*

sol - dier's bride should not weep," you said; but how can my heart be light? . . . I've on - ly a sad, sweet mem - o - ry, dar - ling, of you to - night. . .

mf *rit.* *f a tempo.* *rall.* *p rit. e dim.*

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BEETHOVEN, THE COMPOSER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

King of symphony composers, Beethoven is known to musical people by many works, but his most famous is the Ninth Symphony, which ranks in that line of composition with the same great lead that Handel's Hallelujah chorus has in the music of the oratorio. At the time this was written a symphony was not nine parts as now but anything where the composition was in unison.

Louis Van Beethoven was born at Bonn, Germany, on December 17, 1770, and at this beautiful town on the river Rhine spent his youth and attained his education. His father was a musician of fair capability, but enormous aspiration for musical fame. He conceived the idea that the boy should be educated for a master of music; but young Beethoven showed neither aptitude nor inclination for this end. Many a time the good German father was obliged to beat the son before he could force him to take his seat at the piano.

Beethoven in after years said that as long as it was held before him as a task he felt only aversion for music, but when allowed to look upon it as recreation, without being forced to it by friends, he began to love it. He then became absorbed in it. He began early in life to improvise and soon after to compose. It was while filled with the first success and youthful ambition that he suddenly became deaf, and ever after remained so. When we think what an affliction this was, it seems scarcely credible that the wonders in his composition were performed after he had become permanently deaf and even when he could neither hear the execution itself nor the thunders of tumultuous applause which followed.

His affliction had a peculiar effect upon him and in manner he was esteemed by all, but the few who were intimate with him, as proud and cold, and for years he was as deaf to the desires of society as he was physically deaf to sweet sounds of his own music, holding himself aloof for years from social gatherings. But, in the meantime, he was absorbed in composition and a delighted world of art welcomed with rare enthusiasm piece after piece of his ever glorious work.

His habits were peculiar and it is told that, as he walked with his pupils in the fields, he would mutter and make strange sounds and would break out with some phrase like this: "A theme has just occurred to me for the last allegro to my new sonata."

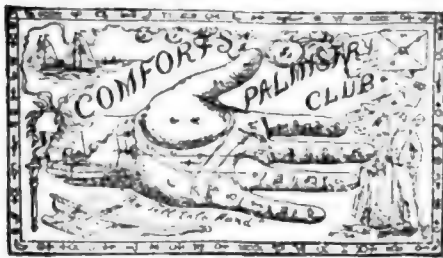
With this he would rush violently home followed by the pupils. Without removing coat or hat he would take seat at the piano, and forgetting pupils and everything, would pour out the new made melody until satisfactory to himself. He never married but a brother left him a son to rear. Beethoven took the little fellow home and became passionately devoted to him. As the young man grew up he illy requited the generosity of his guardian, and became wildly dissolute. His evil career made Beethoven's last days mournful in the extreme.

On the afternoon of March 26, 1827, Beethoven, then 57 years old, was seized with an alarming and mortal faintness. Every aid was extended without avail. In the evening amid the crashing of thunder and the vivid play of the lightning of an untimely and unnatural storm, the great composer sank peacefully to sleep never again to waken.

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CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address, and name de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Plaster is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

THERE are a number of questions to be answered this month and as readers say they enjoy the answering of the questions even more than the reading of the hands, I shall try to answer a few in each number.

What does it mean to have a hand covered with hair, asks one member of the Palmistry Club. A hand, the back of which is very hairy shows inconsistency, while a perfectly hairless and smooth hand denotes folly and presumption. A hairy hand on a woman invariably denotes cruelty. A slight hairiness gives prudence and a love of luxury. According to an old Italian palmist hair on the thumb denotes ingenuity; on all the phalanges of the fingers a quick temper and choleric disposition.

Another member wants to know if the color of the hands makes any difference. It does a great deal. If the hands are always white and never change color except very slightly under the influence of heat or cold, they denote a cold, selfish disposition, self conceit and a lack of sympathy with others. The same old Italian says these rules do not hold good with soldiers, servants and working people, as their occupations would naturally change the color of the hands; but in the case of women and men, too, who do not work much with their hands and who take good care of them the following rules may be safely relied upon:

Redness of the skin denotes a hopeful temperament, yellowness indicates a bilious disposition, blackness indicates melancholy and pallor a phlegmatic spirit. Paleness also betrays effeminacy and a dark tint is always preferable to that. The best color for hands is a wholesome rosininess which betokens a bright and a lovable disposition.

Another correspondent wants to know what is the best shape and size for a palm. The palm should be naturally proportioned to the rest of the hand, that is the thumb and fingers; it should be about half the length of the hand and neither too wide nor too narrow. If the palm is thin, skinny and narrow it indicates great timidity and narrowness and intellect somewhat under the average. It also shows a lack of moral force and energy. A deep hollow palm is always a bad sign, showing money losses, misfortune and danger of failure in enterprises. It is evident, therefore, that the palm should be in proportion with the fingers, that it should be firm without being hard and elastic without approaching to flabbiness. This sort of palm indicates an evenly balanced mind, ready to accept impressions, intelligent and capable of judging for itself. But if the qualities just mentioned are too strongly developed the result will be over-confidence, selfishness and sensuality. Have you never shaken hands with a person whose grasp seemed to be like iron and in whose palm there was no more elasticity than in a stone? In such a case you may depend upon it that the person has brutal instincts, and a low grade of intelligence.

The mounts of the hand have a great deal to do with the indication of character. Someone asks what is the leading mount? I mean by the leading mount, whichever one is most prominent in the hand I am reading. Sometimes there is no one mount more prominent than others and sometimes two or more are equally developed. In fact, it is seldom that a subject has only one mount developed, but it is always the case that where one mount is developed more than the others the characteristics of that mount will prevail over all others. If the subject has no particular mount prominent, that is if they are about equal in his hand, you will find a singular regularity of mind and harmony of existence. If on the contrary, you find that the mounts are none

of them well developed, you will find that the subject is either lacking in natural abilities, or that he has never had any opportunity of developing any characteristics.

One of our members asks what the lines on the mounts mean. One line on a mount un-crossed by others is always a fortunate sign. If there are two lines the good fortune is lessened, especially if they are crossed; three lines, even, straight and parallel are a good sign, but if they are crooked or crossed in the least, they bring misfortune. If no one mount is developed over the other, the one which has most lines upon it may be considered the leading mount. Cross lines on a mount are always obstacles and seriously interfere with the progress of the main lines at these points. If, however, the ascending line is deeper than the cross lines, the evil indications of the cross lines will be destroyed.

The Mount of Jupiter is one of the best in the hand. If it is absent and there is a hollow under the forefinger instead the subject will be irreligious, undignified and vulgar. It is exceedingly rare however that one finds an utter lack of this mount. On the other hand, if the mount is excessively developed it indicates an arrogant, tyrannical disposition with a love of display. Such subjects will be vindictive, fond of pleasure and will spare nothing to attain their own private ends. A reasonable development of the Mount of Jupiter would give tendency toward religion, a love of nature, a vivacious disposition, high sense of honor and worthy ambitions. Public entertainers of all sorts have this mount well developed. Such subjects are self confident, polite and somewhat impetuous; they are usually well built and handsome and as a rule marry early. A cross on this mount denotes a happy marriage and a star when found in addition to the cross indicates a brilliant and advantageous alliance. Many confused lines on the mount betray a constant struggle for greatness and if these confused lines are crossed and badly mixed up they indicate unchastity. A square on Jupiter is a good sign indicating success brought about by the qualities indicated by the mount. A spot indicates a fall from some high position, while a triangle on this mount denotes diplomatic ability.

If the Mount of Jupiter is well developed with the Mount of Apollo also well developed, it indicates good fortune and wealth; if it is combined with a good Mount of Mercury, there is a love of exact science and philosophy. Such subjects make successful doctors, but if this combination comes in a hand otherwise bad it gives charlatanism, immorality and fanaticism. A combination of the Mounts of Jupiter and the Moon makes a subject honorable, placid and just. If the Jupiter and Venus mounts are both well developed it gives a sociable and generous disposition of the hand otherwise good, but in a bad hand it brings effeminacy, caprice and a love of pleasures.

Another writer wants to know what proportion of gum arabic and water must be used to make fixatif. It is hardly worth while to try to make it at home. A half ounce of gum arabic dissolved in a tea cup full of boiling water and allowed to cool, will do if the gum arabic is not too strong; if so, it can be diluted. I should advise that the member send to the nearest city rather than doing this for herself.

The only hand which I shall read this month belongs to Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago. You will notice that this type of hand is one that indicates a man of strong character, somewhat stubborn in the pursuit of what he considers right and utterly lacking in fear of what other people may say of him. He is a very ambitious man and will attain the object of his ambition. You will notice that the life line begins high up on the Mount of Jupiter, which is a sign of ambition realized. He has had some struggles to go through and when he was about thirty or thereabouts, he had some serious obstacles to fight. He has, however, come out triumphantly from them all. At the age of forty-five to fifty, he will have practically the same battle to fight over again as he had at an earlier age. His life line defects at the age of about fifty and goes over toward the Mount of the Moon in a very peculiar way. This would indicate that the latter part of his life would take an unexpected direction, but that he will not live to be very old. I see one successful and happy marriage. He is inclined to be somewhat romantic in his tastes, although exceedingly practical in his every day life. He has fine ideas of things both in public and private life and will make an excellent servant to the public as long as he lives. He will travel considerably and his last journey will seriously affect his life. He has the qualities necessary to make an excellent public speaker, is fearless and bold in uttering his convictions and has a way of not only convincing but disarming his hearers. I do not know anything about the early circumstances of Mayor Harrison, but I should read from his hand that he was a self-made man and that what property he gets will be by his own efforts. While he will have a comfortable fortune during the latter part of his days, he will never be one of our remarkably rich men. On the whole his is the hand of an upright, honorable, generous and public spirited citizen.

Digitus

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A new remedy has been discovered that is odorless and tasteless can be mixed with coffee or food and when taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette fiend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. A free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug & Chemical Co., 119 Fifth & Race Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio. This will help any woman to solve the problem of curing her husband, son or brother of a habit that undermines the health leaving the body susceptible to numerous lingering and dangerous diseases.

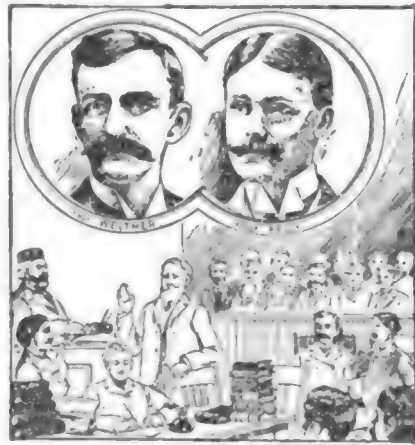
UPON THEIR OATH

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Hundreds Testify Upon Their Oath to the Great Curative Power of This Wonderful Discovery—Not from Heresay, but by Actual Application.

WELTMERISM NO LONGER A SECRET.

Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the originator of Weltmerism, brought suit against one Dr. Bishop, living in Nevada, Mo., for making the statement that Weltmerism was fraud, and the case was brought up before that eminent jurist, Judge Graves. The testimonial in this case was most remarkable, as hundreds of men and women, full of gratitude to the author of their restored health traveled thousands of miles to testify on their oath that they had been



cured through Weltmerism. In this trial Weltmerism had thrust upon it the searchlight of not only legal investigations, but physicians throughout the country were called upon the stand to see if they could not prove it a fraud. One of the instructions of the court was as follows: "If you find from all the evidence and facts and circumstances in evidence that Weltmerism was and had been substantially beneficial to the general public, and their methods had substantially produced the results claimed for them, then you should find for the plaintiff." As the jury found for the plaintiff—Weltmer and his co-laborer, Kelly—against the defendant, Dr. Bishop, to the extent of \$750 and costs, Weltmerism has been sustained and substantially endorsed as has no other curing power known to man. Had not Prof. Weltmer been absolutely positive that his new science which is now known throughout the world as Weltmerism been all that he claimed for it, and had he not known that it would absolutely cure all diseases known to man and woman, both by personal application and by the absent treatment, we would not dare to put it to the test which he did. For it is acknowledged that the case just closed was one of the bitterest ever fought, as he had arrayed against

him physicians of the old school, and also that class of people who always fight a new discovery in the field of science. And the glorious victory won for him, for his method, is such an absolute proof that it is efficacious and that it has at last placed the curing of disease into the domain of an exact science that we must now accept Weltmerism as the curing power of the future. Is it not grand that just as the waning nineteenth century is about to bid farewell and we can just catch a glimpse of the approaching twentieth century, that we have placed before us a method whereby all diseases can be cured and we need no longer fear that we will be drugged to death by medicines or cut to pieces by the surgeon's knife? For this grand discovery eliminates all this danger and unfurls a banner whereupon is written in glowing letters, "Medicine a thing of the past." The testimonials that were brought into court showed that more than \$3,000 people had been treated by the absent method, and out of this enormous number it was shown that only twelve had not been cured. This is indeed a remarkable record. For our own satisfaction we have had Prof. Kelly, the co-laborer of Prof. Weltmer, send us a few testimonials, which we take pleasure in publishing here:

T. T. Rodes, of Paris, Mo., the Prosecuting Attorney of Missouri, cured of Rheumatism, Sciatic Rheumatism. Tried everything without benefit. Was instantly cured through Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. Mrs. C. R. Graham, of Boise City, Iowa, was afflicted for nine years with rheumatism; she could not walk without crutches or lift her hand to her head; she paid out \$3000 with doctors before coming to Nevada. She now proclaims herself cured and a happy woman, through Weltmerism. Mrs. D. H. Allen, of Aurora Springs, Mo., was in a hopeless condition, as she suffered from consumption in its worst form. She could not sleep without the aid of morphine. Tried everything without relief. Fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. D. M. Alford, of Rubens, Jewell Co., Kan., suffered for three years with kidney and stomach troubles; tried the best medical authorities, but was told that his case was hopeless. Took Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment and in three days was cured.

Mrs. Jennie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton. After taking gallons of obnoxious medicines, without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds.

Weltmerism is undoubtedly the greatest discovery of the age, and the Absent Treatment of this wonderful science is indeed a revelation, for through it Prof. Weltmer can reach all classes of people, no matter at what distance they live. By writing Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., you will receive free of charge, The Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated Magazine, and a long list of the most remarkable cures ever made.

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Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and it is the grandest and best paying profession of the age. Many of his students are making \$10 to \$50 per day. Taught by mail or personal instruction. Full instructions sent free to those writing to Prof. J. H. Kelly, Secy Nevada, Mo.

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This elegant \$3.75 BIRTHDAY RING with heart-shaped locket that opens with a dainty little key, is also this magnificent Solid Gold \$10 BIRTHDAY RING. You get both of them free. Just send us your name & address (letter or postal), that's all, & we will send you \$20 Wks. of our *Newest* *World's* *Best* *Gift* *Ever* *Known*. Before we sell to you, when you need us the money & we will promptly send you this BIRTHDAY RING. We run all the risk and take back what you cannot sell. Our reliability is established. We refer to the publisher of this paper or to any *Nebraska* *Bank* *and* *the* *Post* *Office* *at* *St. Louis* *Mo.*

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FREE We will send two thousand packages of these *Pepsin Salted Peanuts* out to respond-able parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages and **FREE** get a watch, a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. No attention paid to first orders without trial & subscription. Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages.

Address, COMFORT FOOD DEPT C, Augusta, Maine.



BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

COASTER brake, or "free wheel" devices, as they are called in England, are so popular, interesting and mysterious that a plain, simple description of them by an expert, devoid of technical terms, such as here follows, will not be amiss. The mechanism of a coaster brake device is all contained in the rear hub, from which it is operated by different and varying pressures communicated to the mechanism through the medium of the rear sprocket, front sprocket, chain, cranks and pedals. In the rear hub is contained a clutch operating upon five or six rollers or balls, which roll into place in separate grooves, these grooves being tapered and larger at one end than the other. When a forward pressure is applied to the pedal the balls run up into the small ends of the grooves and lock the clutch so that the sprocket and hub revolve as one. When it is desired to coast, a slight pressure is put upon the pedals when one pedal is at its highest point and the other is at its lowest point, and the balls, or rollers, then drop back to the large ends of the grooves, so that the hub revolves with the wheel, but the sprockets, chain, cranks and pedals remain stationary. To apply the brake a firm pressure, called back pedaling is applied to the pedals, which communicates this pressure through the lower part of the chain to the rear sprocket, which then wedges or jams a disk against a drum containing a spring or other device against the hub shell and effectually stops the rear wheel from revolving. A slight pressure forward releases this jam and the wheel rolls along as before.

Wheelmen will recall the spring saddle which was put forth by Mr. Garford in 1891. This saddle gave way in the following year to a less complicated arrangement. With the year 1893 came the pneumatic tire, withdrawing the necessity of the large serpentine and flexible springs. By successive and radical improvements the saddle was brought to something approaching its present shape. Subsequent changes made in turn, the soft saddle and the hard, or with the inner wooden piece, were mere side issues that operated chiefly in bringing the saddle to its present state of perfection. Now riders can find themselves suited in all directions. Mr. Garford says that the saddle is a point of the wheel's makeup practically untouched by style and fad and says that as far as 1900 models are concerned the standard types will fully satisfy the public.

When it began to be seen that the coaster brake would be one of the chief innovations for 1900, there arose much questioning as to whether or not it would be possible for it to be applied to chainless wheels. This has been done successfully, and the first opportunity for the public to view a chainless wheel fitted with such a device has been afforded by the show. The entire mechanism by which the pedals are made "free" so that the feet may remain on them while the wheels revolve, is fitted on the rear hub. The application of the brake is made by back pedaling, as in chain wheels, but the braking on the bevel gear wheels is not the result of compression on a ring of spring steel within the hub attachment, as in the case of the chain machines. In the new application the left hand side of the rear hub is connected with a rod, that is fulcrumed on a short arm lever at the rear stays, and this lever forces a metal spoon against the rear tire when the back pedalling pressure is applied.

The old time "dandy horse" or "draisine" is certainly an antiquity. Its massive saddle and framework are in strong contrast to the light, clean running, chainless wheel of to-day. The "dandy horse" has neither pedals nor cranks. They were not needed in its day. The rider bestrode the saddle and propelled the wheel by touching his toes to the ground and pushing it along. What he did when ascending a hill is not explained. Some rough models, with saddles so large as to suggest easy chairs, and with cranks attached to the forward wheel are next in line. Next came the "ordinaries", with the high front and the small rear wheel; a "crossbar" safety, some 40-pound diamond frames and models of the chain wheels which three or four years ago were considered the acme of perfection in cycle construction; and then the modern chainless.

A combination pedal appears this year, which, when fitted with rubbers, seems to have been designed as a rubber pedal only. With rubbers removed, however, it does not appear incomplete, but as if designed as a rat trap pedal. The rubbers, being triangular, are light and interchangeable, but each may be turned to present three separate contact surfaces.

Some of the new models in bicycles are

really things of beauty. In finish and in general lines they are really the superior of anything heretofore put on the market. Bicycles are lighter this year than last and the change is a popular one. A saving in some cases of five pounds has been made on the 1899 models, which agents generally have reported as too heavy to please the majority of riders. Bevel geared chainless models are those in which the largest saving in weight has been made. New ideas in cutting the gears have permitted some economy in weight.

Inflating of tires has always been much of an annoyance to many, but the disagreeable and laborious part can be obviated now by the use of the automatic bicycle pump. This machine is small, box-shaped, and weighs less than fifty pounds. It can be placed anywhere, although most convenient when attached to a rack. The mechanism is simple. To operate the pump, it is only necessary to drop a cent in the slot, press the knob, insert the valve, turn the crank and the tire is inflated.

It is stated on good authority that dealers are ordering from ten to twenty samples, where they ordered one or two a year ago. This is the best evidence of the healthful condition of the industry that we can possibly have at this time of the year. With our roads being improved right along the interest in the sport and recreation is bound to increase further. You will see more people on the roads with the opening of the outdoor season than was the case a year ago. The person who has become accustomed to getting out in the air on a bicycle quickly realizes the good that has been done for him mentally and physically, and anybody who says that such a person is going to give up the bicycle simply does not know what he is talking about.

Oil is a most permeative substance, and as a lubricant a very little is better than much. For several years one of the distinctive structural features of a famous wheel made in Boston has been a patented system of self-oiling bearings, consisting of a hollow axle which, stuffed with an oil-saturated wick, constitutes an interior oil chamber, connected by small ducts to the cups. Once oiled through the end of the axle the balls run in a light film of oil through the whole season.

Spokes, though larger, are made much better than formerly, and are much more carefully plated. A concern which manufactures spokes for its own well-known bicycles and for many others says that in all the wheels it sold in New York during 1899 not one defective spoke was returned, the only breaks being due to accidents.

Electric vehicles are called by a dozen different names, while there is a like number of expressions used in connection with the pastime. The motor vehicles are termed autocars, autodies, autogoes, teuf teufs, automobiles, autobains and other expressive names and terms of indefinite origin. The favorite name for the person who operates the carriage is automobilist, or chauffeur. French terms predominate, for it must be admitted that as a sport automobilism originated in France.

The automobile is all right for him who wants it, but I am satisfied with the bicycle. Nothing pleases me better, nothing does me more good than an hour's ride in the morning before breakfast. A man with a bicycle always seems to feel that he has his best friend with him.

A REMARKABLE VIEW.

One of the most remarkable pictures that has been seen by COMFORT for a long time is a print being sent to publishers by Dr. R. V. Pierce of the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y. The view is of the Invalid's Hotel and Surgical Institute owned by the Association, and before it stand the seven large automobiles which are used by them in the distribution of advertising matter, etc. Nothing could better show the enterprise and reliability of Dr. Pierce than this view. The substantial, large hotel which adjoins and the immense plant and the graceful, modern vehicles speak volumes to the observer. Dr. Pierce's reputation, skill and reliability are world-famous, and no more progressive a practitioner is now in public life. The proprietary remedies he handles are so well known as to be proverbial in the household. COMFORT congratulates the Association upon the high position it holds and Dr. Pierce, especially, on his continued success.



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ARCH OF TRIUMPH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

From time immemorial there has been the same acclamation and absolutely uncontrolled enthusiasm over a conqueror. And always this has been partially expressed in the erection of an arch for the hero to pass through, dragging his conquests entrained.

After a lapse of eighteen centuries there stands at the present day the arch erected to commemorate the conquest of Jerusalem by Titus—one of the grandest relics of imperial Rome.

When New York City prepared to welcome Admiral Dewey, C. R. Lamb, in collaboration with a number of America's foremost sculptors, planned and erected a *Triumphal Arch* and took for a model this "Arch of Titus".

The Dewey Arch stands across the Avenue, with an approach of colonades which stretch one block in each direction, north and south. Like the Exposition buildings in '93, it is made of "staff"—a skeleton of wood, covered with wire netting, over which is a plaster of Paris coating. In the groups and figures excelsior was used for a foundation.

Surmounting the arch is a group representing, naval victory by J. Q. A. Ward. "Victory" stands in a chariot drawn by sea-horses, with Tritons as couriers. This group was completed in six weeks' time.

Next in merit are the four groups at the base of the Arch. On the north-east is "Call to Arms". The group on the south-east represents sailors in the heat of combat. On the south-west "The Return," in which Admiral Dewey figures prominently. And on the north-west "Peace". On the inside of each of the columns is Martiny's "Victory", duplicate of that which adorns the newel posts in the Congressional Library at Washington. On either side of "Victory" are two Ionic pillars forty-five feet in height and each of these columns bears the name of one of the ships in Admiral Dewey's fleet.

It is unfortunate that such a work of art should have been made of perishable material. Even a very few weeks after completion the changes in atmosphere had noticeably effected it around the base. But as the public are advocating a duplicate in stone, in the course of a very few years New York City will doubtless have an "Arch de Triumph" which will rival that of the Parisians on the Champs-Élysées.

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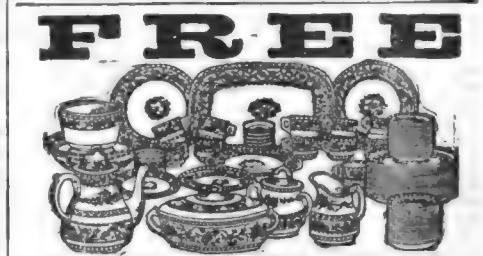
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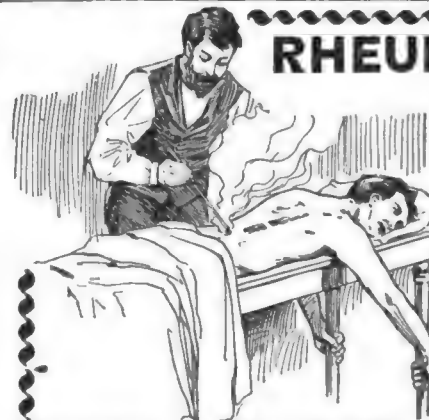


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CURRENT TOPICS
AMERICAN HISTORY

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



GEN. GEO. B. DAVIS.

ONE of the most interesting events in the American Congress during the past month has been the debate on the Porto Rico tariff, which has been followed very closely by the members of the House and Senate, as well as by the press and people generally. The question is an entirely new one in American politics, and opens a wide field to debaters. At first, by recommendation of the President and the Secretary of War, it seemed that Porto Rico would be adopted as an integral part of the United States with the probability of becoming at some future time a state, meantime being in the position of any United States territory. Under the Constitution, there could be no import or export duty on any commerce between states and territories of the Union.

This proposition immediately gave rise to the question of the cheap labor of Porto Rico brought in direct contact with the higher paid labor in the States, and particularly as to its effect on domestic tobacco, the beet and sugar cane interests of the United States, and other agricultural industries which it has felt would suffer from brought into direct competition with products of the island, cultivated as it is by labor paid at less than one-fourth of what a white man receives in this country. The Ways and Means Committee of the House finally brought in a tariff based on 25 per cent. of the Dingley tariff now existing against other countries. The entire proceeds both of the import and export tax thus imposed would be devoted to the schools and other public institutions of the island itself, and to be kept in a reserve fund for this.

The debate in Congress brought up the question of free trade immediately, and party lines were closely drawn. The debate was interesting, and at times fierce; the chief points being the secession of Hon. O. E. Littlefield of Maine and Representative McCall of Massachusetts from the Republican ranks, and their speeches in favor of the opposition. Mr. Littlefield is a young man just elected from the District formerly represented by the late Nelson Dingley. He is a ready debater, and the contest on this bill indicated that he has as yet not found his match on the floor. It will be remembered that Mr. Littlefield took a prominent part in the Roberts exclusion case, and at that time voted against the settlement of his party. It is a bold thing for any new man in Congress to stand out against party leaders; but Mr. Littlefield is apparently fearless, and consistently opposed the requests of the Republican leaders. After an exciting debate lasting several days, in which at times it was supposed the bill was lost, and at no time it would be carried by more than a majority of five, it passed the House on its final passage by a vote of 172 to 161, five Republicans voting with the minority and four Democratic with the majority. The bill now goes to the Senate where it will be passed with certain modifications, returned to the House for conference, and undoubtedly passed without further debate to be signed by President McKinley.

This tariff act is only for two years, and is based upon 15 per cent. of the Dingley bill. The great point which is carried by it is not the question of tariff or free trade, but as to the future treatment of acquired territory by the United States. Immediately after President McKinley sent special message to Congress relative to all tariff money being put aside for the island. A very large proportion of the people, especially the Democratic party, claim that all acquired territory should become a part of the Union and have the same rights, and that it is unconstitutional to impose any customs tax upon it. On the contrary a very great many Americans believe that these newly acquired islands should be treated as dependencies, while they should be a voting power by a representative of the United States Government appointed by the President. In other words, that they are to be dependencies and colonies the same as is so successfully carried out by the English colonial system, but that they cannot be placed on an equal footing with the rest of the Union or have a representation in Congress. This debate may be looked upon as one of the first engagements of the coming presidential contest.

As the presidential campaign approaches, the movements of the expected candidates are being closely watched. There seems to be no possible doubt that President McKinley will be re-nominated by acclamation and without the slightest opposition. While he has some opposition, which is partly relative to certain questions, especially so-called imperialism and expansion, there is not enough to make a respectable showing should it come to voting for delegates to the convention. It is not probable that a single member of the forthcoming Republican convention will be in any way opposed to Mr. McKinley. The Democratic party, being out of power, has already placed itself in opposition to about every plank the administration will probably stand upon; but on any of the questions, especially on that of expansion, the Democratic states are apparently quite solid in the ideas advanced under those names.

Mr. Bryan, who was candidate for president in 1896, is now touring the country and talking on the various issues which may be expected in the coming campaign. He denounces

trusts, opposes expansion, denies the general prosperity of the country, and again commits himself to the 16 to 1 silver question. There is no candidate for this high office in sight in the Democratic ranks beside Mr. Bryan and there seems to be no probable doubt that he will receive an equally unanimous nomination by the Democrats as will be given President McKinley by the Republicans.

While the heads of the two tickets are practically settled at this early date and apparently with no question, there is much doubt as to who will be selected as candidates for the vice-presidency. On the Republican side it was expected that some New Yorker would be nominated by acclamation, but so many have appeared representing different factions that there has since been general newspaper talk of taking a man from the far West. Hon. Arthur Sewall of Bath, Maine, who was candidate for vice-president with Mr. Bryan has recently returned from Honolulu and come out openly for expansion and for the re-election of President McKinley, which of course removes him from being renominated with Mr. Bryan. This will open the field to numerous aspirants. The Republican national convention is to be held in Philadelphia, June 18th. It is customary for the administration to hold the earlier convention, but there is considerable agitation in the Democratic ranks for a convention early in May and an attack on the administration all along the line.

Consensus of opinion would indicate that the Republican nomination will go to the State of New York, Governor Roosevelt, Senator Woodruff, Cornelius Blies, and other prominent New Yorkers having been mentioned to fill this place; but each has antagonists within the State. It is desired by the Republicans to obtain a candidate who will unite all the elements in that party in the Empire State. The most recently spoken of candidate is Gen. Horace Porter, now United States Ambassador to France; besides being a man of the most eminent ability and experience, he has no enemies in his own State. It is probable that he could have the nomination without question, but his personal wishes are against it, and his friends declare that he has expressed himself in the most emphatic terms as being entirely averse to any such position.

On the Democratic side, there is every reason for supposing that there will be a fusion of the Populist and Democratic parties without the mistake which was made in 1886 of the same presidential head with two vice-presidential candidates. Mr. Bryan will receive the nomination by acclamation in both parties, and all indications point to the nomination of Hon. W. Caldwell of Kansas, a distinguished Populist leader, as Mr. Bryan's running mate. The Democratic Convention is to be held in Kansas City, July 4th, and will probably be accompanied with much dramatic display. One of the projects at the present time is to have all the members sign a new Declaration of Independence at noon July 4th, and at the same time nominate Mr. Bryan by acclamation. The new Declaration of Independence is naturally to be anti-imperialistic and in favor of the Filipinos, Cubans and Porto Ricans.

In regard to Porto Rico, there have been frantic appeals for immediate Congressional action on account of the impoverished condition of the island. Brig-Gen. George B. Davis, the Governor of Porto Rico, declared publicly that he could not overstate the gravity of the industrial paralysis now existing in that island. He said that the only remedy that he could suggest was the opening of American markets for the accumulated surplus of products, and such Congressional legislation as would give confidence to investors and encourage the development of the natural resources. Until this could be done, he saw no way to prevent an increasing number of people to be fed to keep away starvation.

A great deal has been said about the condition of Cuba, and much to the detriment of the Government, which has been circulated in American papers by interested people. The general idea given by these reports is that the Spanish corruption continues under American rule, and that no progress is made in the building up of the island.

While the Spaniards and a few educated Cubans desire annexation to America, the greater part of the population, and especially the colored and half-breeds, are anxious for another revolution. Most careful examination and reports indicate that while the United States made mistakes in many instances, it could only be expected considering the great difference that exists between Spanish and American customs, and the people of Cuba and the United States; but, as a whole, the people should have every reason to be satisfied with the main result of the efforts of the American officials during the past twelve months. Complete chaos and rebellion have given place to good order; all sections of the populace are living in greater tranquility than was ever before known in Cuba; crimes against life and property are less common than in many a community much more civilized; the revenues show a substantial surplus over the expenditures; the industrial life of the island has made such progress as to insure material prosperity in the near future. A looker on says it is only necessary to watch for a moment the look of contentment on the faces of the vast majority of Cubans, and compare their undisguised happiness with the terror-stricken appearance of these people a couple of years ago to realize what good work has been done. It is undoubtedly true that from now to the presidential election all sorts of stories will obtain circulation indicating a complete failure of American affairs in all these dependent islands. Readers should not pay too much attention to newspaper reports of this kind, as they will be circulated in exaggerated form for political purposes, and not as judicial statements.

The situation in Kentucky has developed into a state bordering on civil war. After an exciting campaign, which will be remembered by all readers, the Returning Board of Kentucky decided that Mr. Taylor had been elected



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Governor by a comparatively small majority. The Kentucky Legislature when it met, having a majority of democrats, promptly passed resolutions declaring that William Goebel, the democratic contestant, was elected. Gov. Taylor called out the troops and surrounded the State House at Frankfort. On the morning of the 30th, as Mr. Goebel was approaching the building, he was shot by some unknown party, and carried to the hotel where his wound was found to be mortal. Notwithstanding his precarious condition, he was sworn in as Governor of the State of Kentucky, and immediately issued proclamations. Mr. Goebel dismissed the Adjutant commanding the State Militia, which is supposed to be composed of partisans of Taylor, and appointed a Democrat. Meanwhile Gov. Taylor issued a proclamation declaring that Kentucky was in a state of insurrection, and adjourning the legislature to meet Feb. 6th in London, a Republican stronghold.



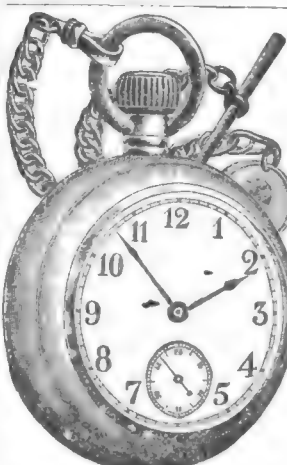
MR. GOEBEL.



GOV. TAYLOR.

Mr. Goebel struggled determinedly against his fate all the week, and finally died; and within an hour J. C. W. Beckham, who had been returned by the Democratic legislative board as elected Lieutenant-Governor, was sworn in as Governor. The following day it was announced that the Democratic seat of government would be established at Louisville. The press of the country very generally upheld the de facto State Government of Gov. Taylor, although his action in adjourning the legislature to London has been criticised as illegal. Notwithstanding the large number of armed people in the streets and the militia stationed in different parts of Frankfort, no armed hostilities have occurred at this writing; the whole case is in the courts for adjudication; but there is continued danger of a state of civil war in the commonwealth.

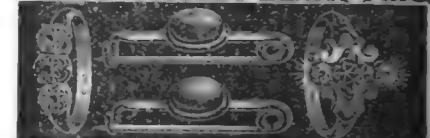
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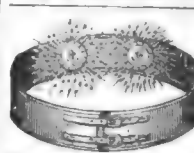
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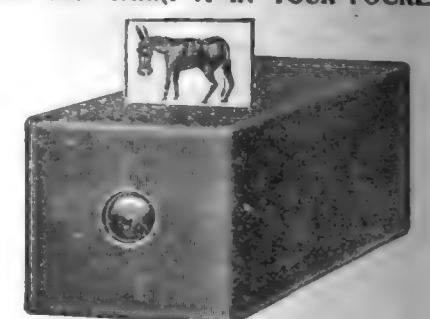


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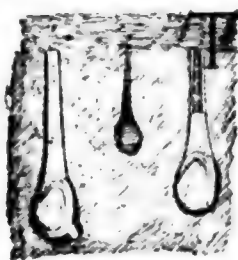


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FARMING THE CLAM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY RENE BACHE.



areas which only four or five years ago yielded immense numbers of these edible mollusks are now practically barren.

It is a real calamity that has befallen. "The disappearance of a staple food, at once healthful, delicious, and cheap, is a matter of far-reaching importance to the community," writes Dr. G. W. Field. "Such a misfortune is today imminent in Rhode Island. The long clam, formerly so abundant, has been all but exterminated from our shores. The supply necessary to meet the enormous demand of home consumers and of shore resorts is almost entirely derived from the coasts of Long Island and of Maine. Yet we have remaining to us all conditions necessary for obtaining from Narragansett Bay enough clams to supply not only Rhode Island, but all sections of the country whither the mollusks can be profitably transported—provided that the flats are made to produce to their full capacity."

The solution of the problem is simple enough, in the opinion of the fishery experts, who recommend the adoption of a system of clam farming, by which, they say, the yield of former years could not only be restored, but actually made many times as great as it was at its best. Properly speaking, the succulent bivalve is an agricultural product, living and growing in rich tidewater mud. At the same time, it is a very highly organized creature, and the fault is not its own if it has been regarded hitherto as a wild animal. The adoption of proper methods will speedily transform it into a domesticated animal, for which capacity it is singularly well fitted, being of a mild disposition and by habit sedentary.

The Rhode Island Experiment Station recently published a statement to the effect that an acre of good "clam ground" ought to yield five hundred bushels of marketable mollusks annually. According to this authority, a clam farm should consist of several divisions—one of them a preserve for breeders, in which mature bivalves are kept in numbers sufficient to "seed" the rest of the planted space without further attention. The rest of the cultivated tract should be split up into sections, to be dug successively, the arrangement being such that any given area shall be called on for a crop only once in three or four years.

Clam culture, if properly conducted along the shores of the United States, would utilize most profitably immense areas of tidal flats which now are waste places. These mollusks

flourish not only on open seacoast, where sufficient protection is offered against the shifting sands, but also in brackish bays and estuaries, even far from the ocean. Indeed, brackish waters are most prolific in clams, having the greatest abundance of the microscopic plants which are the chief food of the mollusks, and every acre of space exposed at low tide in such localities ought to be farmed. The clam is better adapted than the oyster for artificial cultivation, and planting costs nothing—for, if the bottom is suitable, clams cannot be kept out.

Long clams have sexes, some being males and some females. The latter in spring produce immense numbers of eggs, which are discharged into the water and take their chance of being fertilized by contact with the "milt" set afloat by the males. Once fertilized, the egg develops into a young animal which swims about for some days, after which it attaches itself by a slender thread to a piece of seaweed or other convenient support. Some few weeks later it casts itself loose again, and burrows into the sandy mud. A small space occupied by breeding clams will suffice to "seed" a very large area, artificial planting being unnecessary.

The extreme simplicity of the cultural operations lends a special attraction to the business of clam farming. No planting being required, the crop has only to be harvested and the producing areas protected. "Divide the tidal flats along the coast into sections," advises the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, "and subdivide each of these sections into four divisions, plainly marked by stakes. Only one of the divisions should be dug each year. For example, if the area on the west shore of Narragansett Bay, from Gaspee Point to Cominicut Point be a section, the latter should be marked off into four equal clamming-areas, of which only one would be open the first year, another the second year, and so on in rotation. Thus the mollusks in every division would have three years for growth, undisturbed. As a result, the average yield, after a few seasons, would be upwards of 500 bushels per acre. Such controlling regulations would again permit the valuable flats to produce the food for which they are adapted, instead of exhibiting the melancholy condition of a desert. The effect would be widely felt by the people, for the price of clams today is treble what it would be if proper steps were taken to increase the yield."

Not long ago a very notable experiment in clam farming was made at the mouth of Essex river, in Massachusetts, where are some very extensive flats which formerly yielded vast quantities of the bivalves as a wild crop. Their productiveness having been destroyed by over-digging, these acres of tidal mud were staked off in acre lots and let at \$2 a lot per annum for a term of years to anybody who wanted to rent them. Small clams were obtained from elsewhere and planted, about 500 bushels per acre being required for such seeding. Some of the lots soon yielded enormously, and it was proved that the cultivated bivalves, while quite as large as the best ones of natural growth, are worth more by reason of their uniformity in size. They bring \$1.75 a barrel to the catchers, while ordinary clams fetch only \$1.50. Unfortunately, however, the experiment referred to proved a failure on the whole, chiefly because the people in the Essex

river vicinity were too afraid of robbery of their clam farms by neighbors who would reap without having sown.

There was, in fact, a good deal of such pilfering; and besides, some individuals did everything they could do to antagonize the enterprise, fearing least the success of clam culture might glut the market and reduce the price of the mollusks to an unprofitable figure. But enough was ascertained by this imperfect trial to prove that a great and profitable industry can easily be created by proper methods not only in the locality mentioned, but in any other place where tidal flats under favorable conditions are found. The essential preliminary is the making of a law which shall thoroughly protect the clam-planter in his property rights, providing severe punishment for poachers.

It may be mentioned incidentally that the popular supposition regarding the simplicity of a clam's make-up is wholly erroneous, the structure of the animal being very elaborate and complicated. Its nervous system, its digestive machinery, its respiratory, muscular, and reproductive apparatus, are all marvels of completeness and complexity. Some of its anatomical features, indeed, are quite remarkable. For example, it has three brains, which, as well as the ear, are located in its foot, and its intestine passes through its heart.

As already explained, the baby clams, after spending a few weeks at anchor, attached to seaweed or other convenient objects, cast themselves loose and burrow into the mud. Critical is this period in their life history, myriads of them at this stage falling a prey to fishes and other predatory marine animals, while whole broods fall victims to weather conditions. Escaping such disasters, the infant mollusk buries itself in the bottom by means of its foot, and, with the tip of its siphon extending to the surface of the mud, dwells practically secure from the enemies which beset it during the earlier stages of its existence. The supply of microscopic plants, on which it feeds, being plentiful in the warm shallows, the creature grows rapidly—at the rate of about an inch a year—and in the third year is ready to breed.

If one examines a soft clam freshly captured, there will be found projecting from one end a blackish wrinkled lump, which, on being irritated, quickly withdraws, throwing out at the same time a little stream of water. Put the forbidding-looking creature in a shallow pan of fresh sea-water, and leave it a few hours until it recovers confidence. Then the blackened tube will be found protruded to a length of several inches, and it will be seen that the organ has two openings at the end, beautifully fringed with appendages like little feelers. It really consists of two tubes leading to the body of the clam, and, if you observe the openings closely, you will see a current of water flowing into one of them and another current flowing as steadily out of the other. As the soft clam lies in his burrow, he pushes his tubes up into the sea-water above, and sucks in a stream which bears not only the microscopic particles of organic matter that serve as his food, but also the oxygen which he requires.

The demand for soft clams has long exceeded the supply, and their disappearance does but repeat the old story of reckless destruction of a source of food-supply provided by bountiful

Nature. Already the oyster is similarly threatened, alas! But, happily for the clam, it is even better adapted than the oyster for artificial cultivation. Its enemies are fewer, and the chances of failure in planting are smaller.

Long clams are found plentifully as far north as the Arctic Ocean, where seals, walrus, polar bears and foxes feed upon them greedily. Their habitat extends as far south as Cape Hatteras, below which they are scarce. It has been ascertained that, in what may be termed the "anchored" stage of their life, they can be transported for great distances without injury, so that there is no reason why they should not afford a palatable food supply in many parts of the world where up to the present time they have been unknown. This discovery is fortunate, inasmuch as clams are much more delicate than oysters, and hitherto attempts to carry them over long journeys for stocking purposes have usually ended in disaster. They have been successfully introduced within the last few years on the Pacific coast, where, by the way a giant relative of theirs called the "geoduck," with a siphon nearly three feet long is native. The geoduck, however, is not edible.

The red man, long before the days of Columbus, was well acquainted with the virtues of the long clam, which contributed importantly to the aboriginal "clam bake" on festive occasions when the tribes, like the New Englanders of to-day, visited the salt water and prepared with moist seaweed and heated rocks a complete feast of sea-food with green corn and other delicacies. At the present time much "clam bouillon," so called is put up in cans for market, and it is both palatable and digestible, though not to be relied upon too much as food for invalids, inasmuch as it contains no great amount of nutriment.



Its charming quality in the song of the canary is the result of years and years of cultivation. A little town in the Hartz mountains is the center of the world for canaries, and all the best songsters are imported from there. For generations the cobblers thereabouts have inherited the business of raising canaries along with the trade of repairing boots. Every fall a fair is held and prizes of considerable value are given to the man who can produce the best singers, or who has in any way achieved a new variety of note. The stock notes are called the roller, water, flute and bell. To effect the first, a large wooden wheel is kept constantly revolving in the vicinity of the birds, and against the surface a quill is made to press; this gives forth a sound which the birds strive to imitate, which makes a very pleasing note. The water note is not unlike a trill, and the birds are incited to this by means of a tin pan nailed in the middle of a post firmly planted in the ground. Through a pipe from above water is made to drop into the pan, and the vibrations thus caused are imitated by the birds. The bell note explains itself. To obtain the flute note they rub together two bits of waxed ends held tight in a rude frame work. These birds always retain their beautiful voices and methods; the next generation, removed from this cultivated atmosphere, will not sing so well, and in three or four generations the descendants will simply whistle and screech.

HYPNOTISM



What or whence is this Hypnotism?

Have you ever been Hypnotized? Is it true we can be put in a trance and yet our wills and bodily senses act at the bidding of another? Can you be visibly asleep and at the same time intensely awake? Can we really be made to speak and move correctly though unconscious, to submit our faculties and feelings to all sorts of perversion, to be wise or silly, dumb or eloquent as a hypnotist ordains for us, and yet have no memory of it all when we are freed from the mysterious spell? And if so, what more is there—what is it all good for, anyhow?

These are the perplexing questions that people now put to each other throughout the land. I have just issued a wonderful book covering the whole subject and am giving it away FREE to all who write me for a copy. I have pledged myself that none need be ignorant on the facts of this science, and I shall even tell you more than the given questions would cover.

I shall show you that this Hypnotism is the most wonderful force in nature—that it is as mighty in the realm of mind as electricity in the world of matter. I shall prove to you that it cures all pain and cures all diseases; that it is an agency of reform and a detective in the path of crime; that it assists education, surgery and medicine; that it will correct the vicious and uplift the suffering or degraded, that it brings health and success to those who use it and enables them to extend the same and other blessings of mind and body to all who hold a place in their hearts. Above all else I shall fully prove to you that it is no fake, no fraud, no phantasm, but a clean-cut, orderly science which is very easy to learn and which will serve its humblest adherent as thoroughly as the most learned or lofty.

WHAT IS HYPNOTISM?

I may describe Hypnotism as a trance-like sleep, or well, into

which one person casts another by a very simple process. In this state the operator, or hypnotist, has supreme control over the mind and senses of his subject. The latter, for the time being, has no will but that of the hypnotist, to whom he is truly as clay in the hands of the potter. At a word or sign he will perform most surprising feats, mental or physical, which he could not even attempt in the waking state. He can only see or hear, speak or act, precisely as the hypnotist wills him, and he so keeps on incessantly until the same imperious will directs a change or withdraws the spell.

WONDERS OF HYPNOTISM.

It may be judged that from these conditions the most startling phenomena will result. I regret I can only allude to them in this limited space. I have set forth very many of them in my book and yet description utterly fails me. Just think of it. One mind is passive, pliant and slavishly docile, though intensified in all its faculties and having new ones that can range afar. The other mind dominates these powers, from least to greatest, more completely than any despot rules his trembling serfs.

USES OF HYPNOTISM.

To know the science of Hypnotism enables you to do boundless good for yourself and others. The student finds it a passport to fascinating realms of science. It is an endless recreation to persons of means and leisure. It enlarges the opportunities of generous souls. It is a friend to the friendless, a physician to the ailing and a comfort to the distressed or sorrow-stricken. It is a sure ministry to all of success and independence, reputation, health and happiness. It is also for those who desire it a dignified and money-making profession. These and numerous other benefits I show the way to in my illustrated FREE BOOK. If you wish to realize them fully just send for a copy and read it.

HYPNOTISM IN DISEASE.

Beyond all doubt Hypnotism is destined to be the healing science of the future. Never was known the anodyne that could equal it in banishing pain. Never was known the specific, or even the healing system, that could so master and expel the various forms of disease. Already the most eminent

physicians employ it in their practice and there is a growing legion of specialists who have totally discarded their old and unprofitable methods. As an untiring, drug-free, and powerful mode of curative treatment, it is a blessing to every suffering mortal in existence.

HYPNOTISM FOR AMUSEMENT.

As a means of entertainment for small or large audiences, Hypnotism stands today without an equal. It appeals to the natural love of the marvelous and yet is an endless source of the most hilarious fun. There is simply no limit to the comical situations and side-splitting absurdities that a hypnotist may create with one or more subjects. As an accomplishment in private circles it is therefore invaluable. As a means of entertaining audiences it beats the minstrel show and comic opera joined together—and my book shows fully how it can thus be made a source of liberal income as well as harmless enjoyment.

YOU CAN LEARN HYPNOTISM.

For all that, you can easily become a hypnotist. It is not a special or exclusive gift. It is a very simple science for which the capacity is inherent in us all. It is easier to learn how to hypnotize than to learn how to walk or swim. All who know how to read can master hypnotic powers. Whoever once masters them has the wide world of humanity for their profitable use. The study is neither deep nor difficult. The simplest and most ordinary intelligence can grasp it. The most lofty or profound will be equally charmed by it. Why do you not learn it? There is absolutely nothing to hinder. My illustrated mammoth book, the "Key to the Mysteries of Hypnotism," is entirely at your service just for the asking. You have heard of and admired these wondrous powers why not master them and use them for your own welfare and happiness? Why not learn them even if only for the good you can do to others? Why not study and exercise them as a money-making profession? I have won fame and fortune by them—so have many others, and so may you.

HOW TO LEARN HYPNOTISM.

The process is very simple. The labor is merely trifling. You know how to read else you would not be reading this. You would not be reading these lines. And here

you possibly know how to read you can soon be a hypnotist equal to the best. I know whereof I speak on all this subject. I am conceded to be the leading hypnotist of this continent. I have given up my life to the study of this science and to the work of teaching it to others. It is my chosen and cherished pursuit and I have no greater joy on earth than to see others win fame and celebrity by it as I have done. It can never disappoint anybody who takes it up with a willing heart. It has all and much more than the powers I have claimed for it. It is a healer of disease. It is a winner of friendship and regard. It is an all potent spell of love. It is a weapon of the ambitious and a shield of the inoffensive. It is a miracle-working power for the good of individuals, families and society. It is accessible to old or young of either sex and it is my proud privilege to make it so.

SECRETS FREE TO ALL!

I have laid low the barriers that once hemmed it in. I have given to the multitude what was jealously guarded by the few. I have made Hypnotism, the most exalted of all sciences, a truly popular study. I have stripped it of theories and technicalities and put it in a garb of homely speech. Thus it can be understood and learned by all and its amazing performances tried by the test of practice. It is no longer a mere problem for solitary scientists. It is an art, a power and an influence among the people. It is a fascination to its very adept. It is the most stupendous fact of modern life in so far as it places the humblest on a par with the most privileged in the hidden fields of human thought. In the struggle for fortune, in the quest of social distinction, in the attainment of sound health, in the sure pursuit of success and in the sunshine of home, peace, union and love. So much and yet more is Hypnotism to us now while I may honestly claim that this is what I have done by the publication of my great illustrated work, my "Key to the Mysteries of Hypnotism," and by distributing it as a free gift to all who take an interest in the science. There is positively no cost nor charge in connection with this valuable book. If you write for it even on a postal card you will receive a free copy by the very

The Wonder of the Age

next mail. If you do not learn Hypnotism it is your own fault. Now let me repeat.

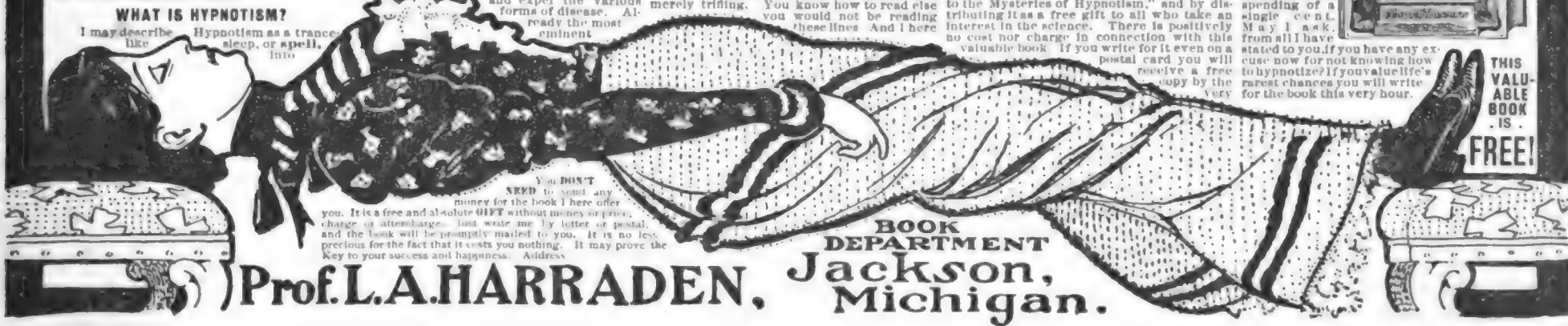
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It is free although the most interesting and precious treatise of the kind ever published. It unfolds every mystery and marvel of hypnotic science. It tells you all that Hypnotism is to mortal ken and all it can accomplish through mortal agency. It tells you how you may sway the minds of others, perform the most surprising or laughable feats and thus give entertainment by the hour to any assembly. If you aspire to learn Hypnotism, if you want to know how to hypnotize, this treatise is beyond all others your fitting friend and counselor.

For its own intrinsic worth it is a book that anybody might covet. I have spared no expense whatever in making it worthy of its fascinating theme. I have made it so attractive that you are sure to preserve it and often glance through it even after the first reading. Every page is richly illustrated with pictures of hypnotic stage work, situations and phenomena. And it is ALL FREE, free as air, or water, or summer sunshine. You have only to write me for a copy to get it promptly and without the spending of a single cent. May I ask, from all I have stated to you, if you have any excuse now for not knowing how to hypnotize? If you value life's rarest chance you will write for the book this very hour.



THIS VALUABLE BOOK IS FREE!



Prof. L.A. HARRADEN, Jackson, Michigan.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE revival of interest in domestic affairs, which is shown by the eagerness with which women listen to lectures on the science of proper living, is so widespread that scientists everywhere are trying to bring the home back to the old ideal. Those who live in or near the large cities have much the advantage of their sisters who are far removed from the great centers, and who have to depend largely on the papers to which they subscribe for their information regarding the latest experiments along these lines. For this reason we are going to devote the space in this department, this month, to some information regarding the Housekeeper's School, which was opened in Boston, Mass., about two years ago, under the auspices of the Educational and Industrial Union. Two connecting houses were taken and fitted up, one as the residence of the instructors and the young women who are studying, and the other as class rooms, kitchen, dining-room, study, lecture room and dormitories. The dormitories are arranged with folding screens, so that each girl has her bed, dressing table and commode all to herself.

It is supposed that no girl would apply for admission to this school who had not at least the rudiments of an education such as she would acquire from a grammar school, though there is no educational requirement. Of course she must have a good moral character, and be in good health.

The practical work includes the kitchen work, care of the fire, sink, traps; care of the kitchen, pantry, cellar and refrigerator; the preparation of cereals; bread, biscuit and muffin making; the making of plain soups; roasting, boiling and broiling meats and fish and the cooking of eggs and vegetables. Making tea, coffee, chocolate and cocoa and plain desserts. Plain washing and ironing and the general care of bed and table linen. In chamber work, care of the bedrooms, beds and bedding, sweeping and dusting and the care of the toilet and bath rooms, and of hardwood floors. In parlor work, care of dining-room, silver, glass and china, how to lay the table for and to serve the different meals; care of parlor and halls, the answering of door bells, and so forth.

The course covers a period of eight months, spent mostly in class work and practical work in the house. No charge is made for the pupil's tuition, room or board—as she gives her time in exchange for these. Usually the pupil is put into the kitchen to assist the cook and thus to learn all about the range and oven and the care of both. Then she does a turn of two or three weeks at cooking certain things and having general charge of the kitchen. She then goes to the dining-room, where she learns how to lay the table and how to wait on the table; the care of silver, glass and china and of the table linen. Her costume during this part of the work is a light wash dress, with white apron having bretelles over the shoulders, white cuffs and collar and a white cap. She then spends a week or two on parlor work, which is the general care of parlor and hall, answering bells, caring for the plants and flowers, also birds and pets. For this part of the work a black dress is required, with which she wears a white cap and apron, white collar and cuffs. Then she has an opportunity to do chamber work and after this a certain length of time in the laundry. Before she graduates she gets up a lunch or dinner, cooking everything herself, upon which the instructors are to pass judgment; after that she serves a dinner which some one else has cooked. She also launders fancy underwear, to be inspected by the instructors, thus passing a sort of examination in each branch of her work.

This gives an idea of what the pupil does in actual housework. Of course with all this there is the class work, to which a certain number of hours are given each day, in study and listening to lectures. These studies and lectures treat of house sanitation, soil, drainage, plumbing, heating, lighting, ventilation, cleaning and disinfection. Then comes the chemistry of food and laboratory work, and then follow on the purpose of the home—the furnishing and decorating, marketing and household buying.

It certainly seems as though every department of the home was given thoughtful consideration, and that the young woman who has taken this course would be well equipped for taking her place and giving perfect satisfaction in every way. In many cases this has been found to be so, but there are always exceptions to the rules, and the writer's personal experience with one of the graduates from this school was anything but satisfactory. This happened soon after the scheme was started, in fact I think this special girl was one of the first graduates, and it may be that the methods have been improved since then and so the great difficulty in this one case has been obviated in recent graduates. The trouble seemed to be in the entire lack of being able to get the work done within the usual number of hours devoted to housework. Each girl, during her residence at the school, does, as stated, each kind of work for a certain length of time. I have not been informed that she is expected, toward the end of her course, to devote one whole week to the work that she would do if she were to take a place as general housework girl in a family. This seems to me to be imperative. She should have for her duties the building of the fire in the range, getting breakfast, clearing away the breakfast

and washing the dishes; dusting the living rooms and chambers and putting them in order. Then the getting of the midday meal, and after that doing the work in hand, according to the day of the week, and then getting the evening meal, whether dinner or tea, and clearing up after same and putting her kitchen and serving room in order. Of course this would be the rule followed in an ordinary household—the time between the chamber work and noon meal, and between the noon and evening meal, to be employed in the ironing, sweeping, cleaning of windows and silver, cooking, etc., etc., according as the family needs required, and to be regulated by the mistress. If each pupil were required to do this regular, systematic housework for two or three weeks before being allowed her diploma, the woman into whose service she went would have a blessing indeed, and this is, of course, one aim of this great work; and the other aim is that it may be understood that housekeeping is a profession demanding scientific training.

Now let me answer the question of one of our readers regarding Dario Moulds and Timbale Irons. The former are small tin cups, possibly 3 inches high, and cost about 4 cents each. Can be bought at hardware or kitchen furnishing shops. The Timbale iron is more expensive, being a solid piece of metal, usually diamond in shape, with a long handle. This iron is put into hot fat and when of the right heat is dipped into thin batter, which adheres to the iron. Then the iron is dipped again into the hot fat and the batter very quickly browns, as the coating is very thin on the iron. It is then removed from the fat and the Timbale falls off from the iron, and is a thin brown case, in which is served either something hot, such as creamed chicken, or something cold like strawberries. The cost of a Timbale iron is 75 cents.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



It

HAS often happened, in the ruling of great kingdoms the power behind the throne has been a woman. It is one of the marvels of the century that this should happen in a country where women are given no rights, no education and, in fact, are often killed as soon as born. In conservative China the Empress-dowager is the ruling power. For many years she managed the affairs of the nation from behind the throne; now she has banished the legal ruler and has taken everything into her own hands.

The Empress was born more than sixty years ago in one of the southern provinces of China and was well educated according to Chinese ideas, quite an exception to the rule of illiteracy among Chinese women. She became the second wife of the Emperor Hienfung and bore him a son. The true Empress had no children, so when the Emperor died the son of the second wife, then a mere infant, succeeded to the throne. By the will of the Emperor his two wives were made guardians over the boy, and they were to be assisted in ruling by a Court of Regency. The Empress-mother, (whose name is Tshi Toanya Kangi Chaoyu Chuangcheng Shokuny Chunhein Chungish) was a very clever woman and she saw that her power in the affairs of the kingdom would be next to nothing, so she took into her confidence the young Prince Kung, a younger brother of the late Emperor and unfolded a scheme by which, after executing the Court of Regency, they should rule the kingdom for the young heir, the Prince to be the executive Regent, but nothing was to be done without her advice and consent. The other Empress was of a very different disposition, quiet and retiring and not at all disposed to meddle with the affairs of state. Although both women lived in the imperial palace they saw but little of one another for the "forbidden city," the regal residence, is a series of palaces covering many acres of land and as impenetrable to foreigners as the sacred temples of India. What goes on within its close-guarded gates is a closed book to all save the members of the royal household. From without it is a most imposing pile, but within it is filthy as are all the streets and houses of China. Though hung with most gorgeous embroidered silks, and containing beautiful carved tables and screens, and cabinets filled with rare porcelain and bronze, the floors of the imperial palaces are seldom swept and bits of food and refuse of all kinds ornament there.

The plans and schemes of the Empress-mother and Prince Kung went on for many a year undisturbed by the other Empress. Of course the two schemers became deadly enemies, as is usually the case with partners in evil. The young Emperor, Tung Che, grew to be a dissipated libertine and lived but a few years after his accession to the throne. It now remained to choose another Emperor, for Tung Che left no heir. The Queen Regent was equal to the occasion and before any one could prevent she sent for the infant son of her husband's brother, and he is now the Emperor of China. During the minority of the young Emperor, Empress Tshi held the reins of government in her hands, Li Hung Chang being her prime minister. One mistake she made and that was her choice of a tutor for the young Kuang Su. This tutor was a liberal man who had done service in foreign courts, and he taught his young charge the English language and imbued him with modern ideas so that when he became Emperor in fact he introduced many improvements and a liberal policy which displeased the Dowager so that she plotted and planned until she succeeded in making him a prisoner in his own palace. There he is today, and liberalism in China has halted for a time. Within the year a new dawn seemed breaking for the poor, weak-willed monarch. Superstition, which is the ruling attribute of the Chinese mind, seemed working on the side of the Emperor.

Since July not a drop of rain has fallen in China. The crops have failed utterly and thousands of people are starving. In all the temples prayers are being offered, incense is being burned and everything that will appease

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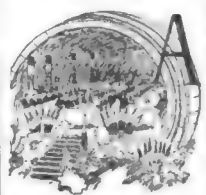


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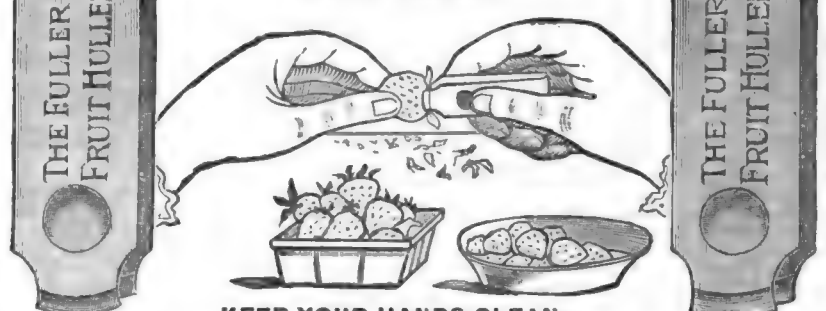
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FOUR GREAT CANALS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



MAP of the trade routes of the world shows the continents crossed and recrossed by railroads, and the oceans marked off with long lines, showing where the ocean liners make their straight courses from port to port. No expense is spared in shortening the distance between important points, and engineering skill is tasked to its utmost to achieve this end.

At the present time four great schemes are before the world, their aim being to improve the facilities for commerce; four great canals are proposed in which four of the continents are interested; in North America the Nicaragua, in South America the Panama, in Europe the Russian and in Asia the Malacca. Panama and the Russian canal are already under way, while the other two are, as yet, in the air.

To Americans a short cut from the Atlantic to the Pacific is becoming of more and more importance. As our interest in the East increases a short route for steamers will become indispensable; and our government, recognizing this fact, has authorized several commissions to investigate the feasibility of Nicaragua as a position for a canal. Several plans have been presented, all of which call for engineering work on a gigantic scale as well as millions of dollars in money. Yet the undertaking is considered so important, and public opinion is so much in favor of it that it will doubtless be carried out.

But of what advantage is a Nicaragua canal to be if the Isthmus of Panama is already being intersected by a canal, which may be finished before its neighbor is begun? The Panama canal is not an American enterprise and when completed American vessels may, at any time, be excluded from its use. It is being built by French capital, and although at one time it was much in disgrace in the financial world, it is at present progressing, though not rapidly. Thus it appears that a canal under control of the United States government, well fortified for time of war, and awarding special privileges to American shipping, would be of inestimable value to us if our interests in the East are to mean anything.

As to the building of a canal it is not so simple an undertaking as one would imagine. It is not a long ditch wide enough and deep enough for large vessels to pass. Many serious obstacles have to be overcome. Water cannot run up hill and when hills come in the course of a canal, locks have to be built to raise the vessels and lower them again to sea level, without allowing the upper courses to run dry. Panama was begun as a sea level canal but as such it was a failure and the necessary locks are now being constructed. A vessel entering the canal at Colon on the Atlantic side will travel at sea level for seven or eight miles, then entering a lock will be raised twenty-three feet, to the height of the next long stretch of canal, and so on until it is one hundred and thirty feet above sea level; then it will be lowered by three locks to an artificial lake twenty-one miles long, and by two locks to sea level. This canal will be forty-six miles long, made entirely by excavation.

The proposed Nicaragua canal will be about one hundred and eighty miles long, but in its course it will make use of Lake Nicaragua and a long stretch of river so that the actual excavation will be but twenty-seven to thirty miles. This sounds encouraging, but Lake Nicaragua is one hundred and ten feet above sea level and if an opening were made to the sea its waters would be immediately discharged and the lake would be dry. To keep this as a reservoir and store house for the canal and river two great dams must be constructed, one at either end of the lake, so that the flow of water can be regulated. Ships will then pass through a series of locks to the lake, across the lake and be lowered by a series of locks on the other side to the sea level. Another expense which has to be met is the dredging of two harbors, Brito on the Pacific, and Graytown on the Atlantic. Then, too, a temporary railroad must be built for use during the construction of the canal. Panama has to meet neither of these expenses for Panama and Colon are already flourishing towns connected by a railroad which follows the route of the canal.

Yet in spite of all obstacles, expense, and unfavorable conditions it seems likely that Yankee ingenuity and perseverance will overcome all, and we may not be surprised if the American canal is in working order before its more slowly moving neighbor.

Turning to the Old World we find the Russian Canal already progressing. Perhaps we should hardly call this "The Russian Canal" for there are many such in Russia but this is the newest and the longest and is to connect the Baltic with the Black Sea. The work was begun in the spring of 1898 and it will require about five years for its completion. Starting from Riga, on an arm of the Baltic, vessels will sail up the Duna River to Dunaburg where they will enter the canal, which will extend to Lepel on the Berezina River; thence they will proceed on the Berezina and Dneiper to the Black Sea, entering it at Kherson, Russia, near Odessa. By thus using the courses of the rivers the actual excavation will be only about 800 kilometers though the entire distance from Riga to Kherson is 1800 kilometers. The canal

will touch at many of the most important inland towns and vessels will be allowed to pass to and fro by night as well as by day. The journey from end to end will take about six days. Trade will be awakened in the inland sections, and much moral and intellectual advance is hoped for as well as increased trade.

Concerning the fourth great work little can be said. A canal through the Isthmus of Malacca would be an undertaking of much less magnitude than the other canals mentioned and it would save many miles of travel between China and India. If it is built the Straits of Malacca will be but little used and the British town of Singapore would fall into an unimportant place. It may, however be looked upon as one of the short cuts of the future.

CALENDAR SUPERSTITIONS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE first of April is All Fool's Day and its merry-making is of the most secular nature. And yet an old writer solemnly affirms, without giving any reason for his affirmation however, that prayers said to the Virgin Mary on this day at eight o'clock a. m., are of wonderful efficacy, provided a Pater-noster and Ave Maria are added to them. In the Public Advertiser for April 13th 1767, there is a curious explanation of the origin of this day of All Fools:

"Humorous Jewish Origin of the Custom of making Fools on the First of April. This is said to have begun from the mistake of Noah sending the dove out of the ark before the water had abated, on the first day of April; and to perpetuate the memory of this deliverance, it was thought proper, whoever forgot so remarkable a circumstance, to punish them by sending them on some sleeveless errand similar to that ineffectual message upon which the bird was sent by the patriarch."

The Thursday before Easter is known as Shrove-Thursday because on that day it was the custom to have the hair and beard trimmed for Easter. On this day it was long the custom for kings or bishops to perform some act in imitation of our Saviour's pattern of humility, such as distributing food to the poor or washing the feet of paupers. James II. was the last English sovereign to perform such an act in person. The kings of England used formerly to hallow rings on Good Friday, and these rings were supposed to cure persons afflicted with cramps or fits. If the ring were made of a crooked sapphire its efficacy was all the greater.

There is an old belief that eating buns on Good Friday will protect the house from fire. These Hot Cross Buns of Good Friday are said to be a survival of a pagan custom, but the origin is unknown in some countries of baking a small loaf of bread on that day and keeping it to be administered as medicine to those suffering from internal ailments.

A very old belief is that the sun dances on Easter morning in honor of the Resurrection. But, whether it dances or not, very much depends upon its timely appearance, for every person must wear his best apparel on that day and, unless he have some part of his dress new, the birds will spoil his clothes and he will have no luck that year. Poor Robin says:

"At Easter let your clothes be new,
Or else be sure that you will rue."

In some parts of England the common people spend St. Mark's Eve, April twenty-fifth, in watching on the church porch from eleven o'clock at night until one in the morning. This watch must be kept for three years and, in the third, the watcher will see passing before him a procession of the ghosts of all those who are to fall ill during the next year. Those who are to die remain in the church but those who will recover return after a stay that is longer or shorter according to the length of their coming illness. On this night the ashes are also spread on the hearth and, should any of the family be destined to die during the year, the print of his or her shoe will be found there in the morning. To quote Poor Robin's Almanack again:

"On Saint Mark's Eve, at twelve o'clock,
The fair maid will watch her smock,
To find her husband in the dark,
By praying unto good Saint Mark."

It is said that in Porto Rico there are few birds, no snakes, no monkeys and no birds of prey. The length of the island is ninety miles and the area 3670. The population is 820,000—300,000 of which are negroes. It was discovered by Columbus in 1493. It is more densely populated than Connecticut and produces the finest coffee in the world. The annual output of tobacco is 7,000,000 pounds, and the banana crop averages 200,000,000. There are one hundred and thirty-seven miles of railway and four hundred and seventy miles of telegraph. Cock fighting is the chief sport.

The maximum age of the elm tree is 335 years; of the cypress, 350; The ivy, 450; larch, 570; chestnut, 600; orange, 630; palm, 650; olive, 700; oak, 1500; yew, 2900.

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Happening in Omaha one day, quite disconsolate, he was astonished to hear sweet and tender strains issuing from the rear door of what proved to be a music store. He paused at the curbstone and listened. It was one of the favorite songs of his beloved, and so mellow and sweet were the sounds that they brought tears to his eyes. Entering the store the stranger asked what sort of an instrument it was that gave forth such magic sounds. He was shown the Magic Flute which had just arrived from New York. Thinking that the instrument that performed such tone miracles must have cost a hundred dollars or more, he was amazed to see what a trifling sum. He bought the instrument, and the next day returned to his native city and that night under the window of the maiden who had rejected him for his lack of musical abilities, Mr. Henderson poured forth his soul in the songs she loved so well. What was the result? The neglected lover was reinstated in the affections of the fair one, the rival suitors retired beaten in the game, and shortly after he was offered a large nightly sum by a celebrated impresario to appear in concert halls in the leading cities of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, completely happy and full of gratitude for the working of the Magic Flute, are at present traveling in the East, playing to large houses, Mrs. Henderson accompanying her husband on the piano. The musical world is amazed and delighted with the performances of Mr. Henderson on the Magic Flute. And yet his case is merely typical. You may not win a lovely bride by your skill on the wonderful instrument, but one thing you can do, even if you do not know one note from another, you can play a tune in five minutes and should delight your friends with it within a week.

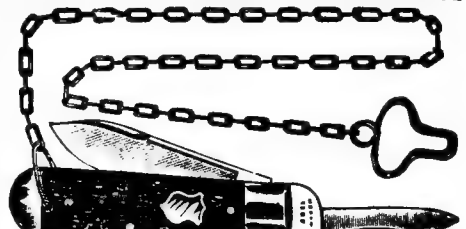
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"The Literary Companion" has been published 30 years, and during that time its Editor has been obliged to fight disease of all kinds, and in spite of having contracted malaria in the war of the Rebellion he has kept at his desk daily. When the country has been under the sway of fevers and other deadly contagious diseases, when in '91 the deadly epidemic of "drip" swept the land with such awful fury, he was fully fortified to withstand all of the cyclone results, and has kept as active, well and hearty as any mortal could who has overcome so many ailments. He will now tell you how to keep well yourself. You see the illustration of the Tonic Cup. Well, here is the secret. It has long been known that Quassia wood contained special medicinal properties which surely relieve and cure Malaria, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Rheumatism and like diseases of Body, Stomach, Kidney and Liver—and by long and careful experiments with this wood it is now by a lately invented new process prepared and turned into forms which are in every way far superior to anything ever produced in the line of Quassia Cups. Gallons of medicine can be gotten from one of these Tonic Cups by simply pouring water into it and letting it stand a short time, when it will be changed into the best tonic medicine ever made and can be drunk direct from the cup itself or poured into any tumbler or bottle. These cups are Veritable Fountains of Health and Youth. A perfect river which will carry you on to the flood tide of prosperity and long life. Every member of every family in the land should use one, and one cup in each family will furnish medicine for the whole family to drink. The problem of economy in doctor's bills has been solved, and sickness can now be banished without employing the expensive methods of former times.

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The British Soldier at Home.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



If a stranger in London asks a native resident what is the most interesting sight in the city, ten chances to one he is told, "The Horse Guards at Whitehall." This was as true before the South African war excitement arose as it is now, and shows how great is the regard of the average Englishman for the army, and how prone he is to look upon the Horse Guards as the army's typical representative.

In course of many years the words "Horse Guards" have come to have a double meaning in England. They designate certain companies of troops, and they also designate the building in London which is looked upon as the headquarters of the British army. The structure to which the words Horse Guards is applied is a portion of the Admiralty, a rambling collection of buildings situated between the lower end of St. James Park and the street called Whitehall. Across the park is Buckingham Palace, the home of Queen Victoria when she is in London, and across the street is Whitehall, the beginning of what was to have been another royal home.

The great Cardinal Wolsey once lived on this site, in a palace of his own. Years after he was dead, and his great house destroyed, Charles I. began to build a palace there which he called Whitehall. Only a small wing of the palace, as the King planned it, had been completed when the coming into power of Cromwell and the Puritans made the king a captive and his palace a prison. The fragment of the building stands to-day, just as he left it, and we look upon the very window in the second story from which the king stepped out upon that "high scaffold" on which, in the sight of thousands, he was to die.

The Admiralty Building is the official residence of the First Lord of the Admiralty and his associates, and from it are issued the orders which direct the movements of the British Navy around the world. What used to be one of the famous sights of London, a thing which people flocked in crowds to this building to look at, is now gone. That was a semaphore erected on the highest part of the roof, and used to transmit messages before the introduction of the electric telegraph and telephone furnished a more rapid means of conveyance. This semaphore was quite similar to those employed in railroad yards now. A line of these instruments was erected all the way from this one on the Admiralty roof to Portsmouth harbor and Navy Yard, the rendezvous of the British fleet. Each instrument was in sight of the next, and by means of them messages could be sent from London to Portsmouth quicker than in any other way.

Originally the British War Office and the office of the Commander-in-Chief were in the Horse Guards Building, but many years ago, in order to give more room and to bring them nearer the Sovereign, these offices were moved into a huge house on Pall Mall, once the home of the Duke of Cumberland, the brother of George III. Here they adjoin Marlborough House, the town home of the Prince of Wales, and St. James Palace, the home of the Duke of York, while Buckingham Palace, the city home of the Queen, is only a little way off, with a bit of the Green Park in between.

The Horse Guards gets its name from the fact that for years there have been kept on guard duty there, constantly, two mounted sentries. These men are furnished alternately from two particular mounted regiments, the

ing how the beasts can be trained in this way. I have watched them for several minutes without seeing a motion, and I have been told that they have been known to stand an hour in that way.

In pleasant weather these guards stand in the open air, one on each side of the gate, but for the preservation of their feathers and so forth, when it rains, a substantial stone house, matching the architecture of the rest of the building, has been erected for each of them, just back of the place where they stand in fair weather. These little "castles" have a lofty arch in front, so that each guard can back his horse into his "box," and thus be sheltered from the weather, while at the same time both horse and man are plainly visible from the street. They look so picturesque when their gorgeous accoutrements have these gray old stone arches for settings, that I used to admire them quite as much when they were in their "boxes" as when they were in the open air.

The British soldier is apt to be found all over England, and wherever you see him, whether in London's streets, marching in companies in some great parade, or drilling in squads in front of some barracks, or off duty, strolling in Hyde Park with jaunty rattan cane in hand, or in white tented encampment in the green open country, he is almost always an ornament to the scene. The regular army uniform consists of tight fitting blue trousers, brilliant scarlet jacket, made to fit as smooth as a lady's basque, and a "swagger" round cap perched on one corner of the wearer's head and kept there only by the aid of a ridiculous band of black enamelled leather which crosses the man's face and goes under his chin, or quite as often, goes between the chin and under lip. One who sees a company of these soldiers on parade sometimes wonders how so many erect, broad-shouldered men can be got together. The erectness of their carriage is a matter of military drill, of course, but even the strictest of martinetes hardly would be expected to command a man to broaden out his shoulders. What the drill sergeant cannot do, though, the tailor can. As a matter of fact a great many of the handsome scarlet jackets, which seem to fit so snugly, are padded and built out over the shoulders. I know this is so because during one summer which I spent in London I came to know several of the men in one company well, and not only frequently saw them with their jackets off, but sometimes tried the coats on myself. This artificial assistance to nature makes the men look well, but at the same time it renders the coats uncomfortably thick in a hot day. The fine appearance of the troops is increased in some cases—as that of the Queen's Guards—by admitting no man below a certain height. When a company is made up of resplendently uniformed men, no one of whom is under six feet tall, the effect is imposing.

The officers' quarters in the city barracks of a well regiment are fitted up with an elegance to be equaled only in the homes of the nobility. During the London season of the year of which I have spoken I had occasion to pass the Knightsbridge Barracks frequently in the evening, and from the street could look directly into one of the officers' dining-rooms. The room was richly furnished, but with excellent taste. When the occupants were at dinner, in full dress or gorgeous uniform, especially if they were entertaining guests, the room made a picture as striking as it was attractive. Of course the cost of living in this style far exceeds an officer's pay. I know one lieutenant, a man of excellent family but with no income except his pay, who deliberately threw up his commission because he could not maintain himself after the fashion of his fellow officers.

The word Knightsbridge, by the way, does not, as a romantic mind might think, mark the spot where at some time in the historic past mail-clad knights guarded the arches of some time-crumbled mediæval bridge. The word is simply a corruption, or one might rather say improvement of a proper name, Neate's Bridge.



SOME people imagine that the enormous quantities of food which are left untouched each day by the guests in the large hotels is extravagantly consigned to the garbage barrel. As a matter of fact, this food, with the exception of what is used for soup stock and in the dressing for fowls, is so well taken care of that hardly a crumb of it is wasted. First of all the waiters help themselves to such portions as they care for, which are left upon the tables after a great feast, and keep them warm until such time as they are relieved from their duties, when they all have supper together off just these remains. The larger hotels in the great cities often have large stock farms, where they ship barrels of this broken food, daily, to be fed to the pigs and poultry. The smaller ones sell it to farmers who come around daily for it, or send it to the stockyards to be fed to the animals there. One well-known hotel offers this food for sale at a very low figure, and it is estimated that about forty poor families in that city have availed themselves of this opportunity, and every forenoon they may be seen lined up near the kitchen door, with large baskets, waiting for their customary ration. To each one is given as nearly as possible, an equal measure of bread, cake and meat, in return for which a small sum is paid.

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Here is an honest advertisement. No beating around the bush. You can get full 10 to 15 yards of beautiful silk. Black, brown, blue, green or pink, in light or dark shades, and a beautiful diamond brooch and a beautiful diamond ring for selling our remedies. We take plain English and guarantee to do exactly as we say. We don't ask a cent. If you agree to sell only 6 boxes of our Positive Corn Cure at 25c. a box, we send you the Salve by mail. When sold you send us the \$1.50 and we send you the solid gold laid mercury diamond brooch pin, together with our offer of a handsome silk dress, same day money is received. We make this extraordinary inducement to secure honest people and prove our Corn Cure the best on earth. There is no chance about it. If you comply with the offer we shall send you; the silk dress (full 10 to 15 yards, any color you desire) will be given absolutely free. Don't pay out money for a handsome dress while you can get one free for selling our remedies. Address at once, MANUFACTURERS' SUPPLY DEPT., "O," No. 65, 5th Ave., N. Y. City.



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A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is surely caught. Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish. Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Safe, sure and convenient." No. 1 is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. 2 is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

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If ruptured write to Dr. W. S. Rice, C. Main St., Adams, N. Y., and he will send free a trial of his wonderful method. Whether skeptical or not get this free method and try the remarkable invention that cures without pain, danger, operation or detention from work. Write to-day. Don't wait.

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OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us. Enclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact, and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS: 2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.50; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, \$2.25; 3 1/2-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, \$3.25. WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

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IN ALL HIS GLORY.

"Life Guards," and the "Horse Guards Blue." They are more imposing to look at than any one can possibly imagine who has not seen them, and after I had once looked at them I could understand how the London people have come to love them as the incarnation of the British army.

To begin with, the horses are the very pick of horseflesh from the entire kingdom, and they are fed and groomed until they look like pictures. I don't know how the men who go on duty there are chosen, but I never saw one there who was not a magnificent physical specimen, while their uniforms and the trappings of the horses are resplendent. The men wear high metal helmets, with enormous plumes. Both horses and men are trained to stand without moving a muscle. It is astonish-



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

After April showers, dear cousins, come May flowers, and may every one of you find the pretty posies strewn along your pathway, not only now, but for all the years that you may live. And with this spring greeting let us get to the more serious task of answering your questions.

The first is from Gervaise of Grangeville, Idaho, who asks if it is correct to wear black slippers in the daytime, and I hasten to assure her that it is. (2) A necktie box with scarf and pin makes a very appropriate and acceptable present for your fiancé.

Blue Belle, Belleville, Texas.—Invite a young man to your house simply by asking him to call. (2) Thank the young man when he says he is glad to meet you. (3) You may exchange scarf pins with a young man whom you know very well. (4) If a girl doesn't know how to greet her "beau" when he calls, she shouldn't have one.

Snowflake, Charles City, Md.—I know of no significance in a stone Indian arrow dart, unless the young man wants you to think it is one of Cupid's. Selfishness, Fort Dodge, Ia.—Try the Boston Bank again for the coin. (2) It is quite right to ask a young man to return your photograph. (3) Yes, the young man who offers no familiarities thinks more of a girl than one who does.

Olive and Sister, Cedar Grove, W. Va.—Don't marry one man when you love another, even if you can't marry the man you love. (2) There is no known plan to prevent a man paying you attention if he wants to do it. (3) If you live in a community where all the girls permit themselves to be kissed by the young men, you will have to move or remain unpopular, or do as the others do. (4) If the man is all right, marry him, whether your father wants you to or not. (5) There is such a thing as love, and marriages without it are very risky ventures. Don't try one. (6) Refuse to see the young man who insists upon kissing you.

Delila, Pico, Texas.—If you intend to marry a man you should regard his wishes as to the friends you have. (2) It is best not to accept the attention of a man who drinks to excess. (3) It is quite right for church members to play harmless games—even cards when it is not for money or its equivalent.

Dott Dimple, Washington, D. C.—I don't know the colors of St. John's, Annapolis. St. John's, New York, are maroon; Lafayette's are maroon and white. (2) Don't be so nice to all the men who come to see you, but be a little nicer to one of them and see what the result will be. (3) Stop going with the girl who is polite to you merely because she likes your brother. (4) Inquire at any bookstore.

O. W., Canon City, Col.—Put olives in your mouth with your fingers.

Mattie H., Pisgah, Tenn.—Tell the young man he is mistaken and if he insists, leave the room. (2) There are many happy marriages in which the woman is older than the man. Do as you please. (3) By all means tell the young man if his cravat is not on straight. (4) It is not too familiar to ask your sweetheart to stop chewing tobacco and drinking. (5) Break your engagement with the young man who has treated you shamefully in the matter. (6) The lady sets the time of the wedding, unless the man is going off to the war or something like that.

Pansy, Berwick, La.—One or two good "love novels" by standard authors are enough in a month. (2) It is right enough to ring a young man upon a telephone but you should not do it when he is at work, unless very important.

Lottie, Peru, Ind.—"Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching" is out of print in the ordinary form, but you will find it in nearly any collection of songs. Ask your music dealer.

Snowflake, Piermont, N. H.—Nine years between man and wife is very good, but you should be older than nineteen. Wait four or five years and see what becomes of the troubles you are now having. (2) A girl of eighteen and a youngster of twenty should wait at least five years.

X. Y. Z., Battle Lake, Minn.—Don't go with the man who is "not fit for a lady to go with," of course. Aren't you a lady? (2) There isn't anything to say when a man thanks you after a dance.

Myrtle, Lawrence, Kans.—A man who has any spirit wouldn't ask a girl to dance with him after she had "mittened" him. (2) A man need not say when he expects to call again. (3) Address the university at Cambridge, Mass. (4) There is no set form of getting acquainted with people whom neither you nor your friends know.

Leora, Cherryvale, Kans.—Good novels read with other literature are of much benefit. Fairy tales by the great writers in that line are good literature. (2) The vast majority of people hold that the Sabbath of the Lord is the first day of the week, but it is the seventh according to Lev. XXV:4. (3) Very few persons are able to explain the meaning of many passages in Revelations, and I am not one of them. (4) There is not any one who is "the most noted preacher in the world." (5) The Bible does not explicitly speak against the wearing of jewels, but it advises moderation in all things.

Ida, Radersburg, Mon.—Stop thinking about the young man who comes to see you "unregularly" and let him go. (2) "Friendship letters" are permissible.

Ida S., Columbia Springs, W. Va.—Medical students are given the courtesy title of Doctor.

"Graduate, Westport, Pa.—Don't wear gloves at your graduation, nor a dress longer than usual.

Lillie and Ida, Cedar City, Mo.—Use your own common sense in replying to the usual courtesy speeches, and lead the way into your own house. (2) A plate should not be turned down; place knife and fork at either side of it. (3) The first dance belongs to your escort.

Edna, Rochester, N. Y.—Your case calls for more than patent medicines. Talk to your family physician.

Dorothy, Brookfield, Mo.—If the young man loves you he will tell you so. If he does not he will do as he is now doing. Tell him you must not see him any more. That may bring him to his senses.

Twilight, Goliad, Texas.—There is a law in most if not all states against cousins, that is first cousins, marrying.

Brown Eyes, Lamar, Mo.—If you and your mother think the young man is all right, possibly you might go against your father's wishes, but it is not best to do so. Ask your mother the other questions you ask me.

Almira, Greenleaf, Wis.—Thank a young man always for his escort or other courtesy and choose your own language. (2) See answer to X. Y. Z.

Daisy, Pollard, Ala.—Let him tell his love or let him go. (2) A scarf pin or match safe, or cigar case or a cane or any of the little silver conveniences for men will make a good present for a birthday.

Effie, Lane, Ky.—It is correct to use the letters "M. D." after a Doctor's name. (2) "My dear Mr. X." or "Dear Mr. X." or "My dear Friend" are very good forms of address until the letters grow more tender.

Lucy, Syracuse, N. Y.—I can not advise any particular correspondence school, but write to all you know of and get their terms and advice and decide for yourself. A woman could not do all the work required of an electrical engineer.

Edna S., Bartlett, N. H.—Ask your mother about your hair and your dresses.

Darling, Selma, Ala.—Ask your dressmaker about a summer wardrobe for the Gulf coast. Maine is too far away. (2) See answer to Pansy. (3) Two young men in a buggy may stop a young lady on foot and talk to her if they are all good friends. Why not? (4) I can't suggest a way for you to make "church money."

Now dears, all your questions are answered and all my space is gone, so with the very best wishes till we meet again I am your

COUSIN MARION.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and we will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

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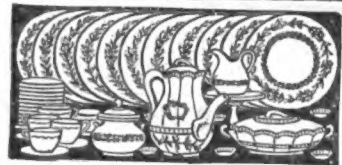


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COUNT THE POINTS on the outside circle. We will divide Two Thousand Dollars payable May 30, 1900, among those who correctly count the exact number. For instance if ten correct answers are received each receives Two Hundred Dollars. If forty correct answers are received each receives Fifty Dollars, and so on. It is difficult to find exact number, so correct answers will not be many. We require each contestant to send 10 cents for trial six months subscription and postage expenses, as we have no further conditions or requirements. The \$2000 is an appropriation to introduce our magazine and if you look sharp you can be successful and cash award check will be sent you by return mail. We are long established and do exactly as we advertise. Address **BLACK PUB. CO., Am. Tract Bldg., New York City.**

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WE WILL MAIL FREE on application, to any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color, after all other remedies have failed. Enclose 2 cent stamp for sealed package. Address,

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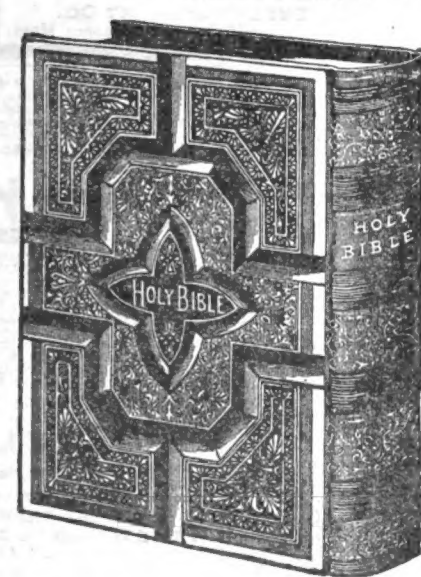
JAN. GARNET	FEB. AMETHYST	MAR. BLOODSTONE	APR. DIAMOND	MAY EMERALD
JUNE AGATE	JULY RUBY	AUG. SARDONYX	SEP. SAPPHIRE	OCT. OPAL
NOV. TOPAZ	DEC. TURQUOISE			

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A PRIZE (without money or conditions) for every correct answer. To all who find in the accompanying puzzle, Dewey's head in outline, mark it and return to us, we give at once an exquisite Tiffany Style simulative Opal or Ruby Stick Pin, FREE, and send 12 ten cent packages of Imperishable Perfume, to sell for us, if you can. When sold, return money and we give you FREE choice of a Heavily Plated Chain Bracelet, with lock and key, or a Solid Gold Shell Beldier Birthday Ring. Simply interpret puzzle, and we send prize without money or price. Write immediately. Don't put off till to-morrow what can be done to-day.

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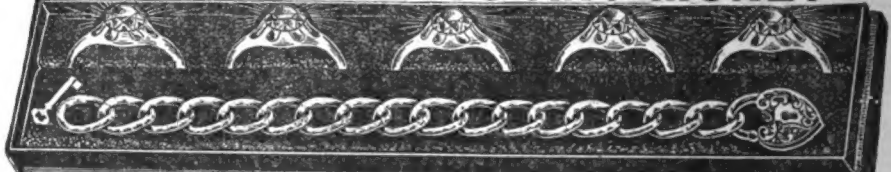
This edition excels all others in the excellence of paper and exquisite topography, being printed from an entirely new set of plates costing \$20,000. The size of page is 12x9 inches, the print large and clear, and there are TEN BEAUTIFUL FULL-PAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC PICTURES of rare artistic excellence and some of the most superb masterpieces of Modern Paintings, being in harmony with the justly celebrated OXFORD TEACHERS' BIBLES. They are bound in fine Morocco Buckram Paneled Slides, and contain the Old and New Testaments, authorized version, a complete list of contents of each chapter in both Old and New Testaments, giving in concise form the subject on which each chapter treats; for instance, we find in this table that the 5th chapter of Deuteronomy contains the Ten Commandments, thus forming a ready reference table. It also gives the number of books, chapters, verses, etc., in the Holy Bible, also gives the number of times many familiar words occur in the work, also a very neat, plain Marriage Certificate and Family Record. Our New Bible is just what the people want; excellent paper, handsome illustrations, good, clear print, handsome and durable bindings, and last but not least, an EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY RECORD, entirely different from that contained in any other Bibles in the country. The print is of large size, clear and distinct, just right for grandfather and grandmother to read without their glasses, while the full-page engravings will interest and instruct the little children. It is the book for every member of the family.

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But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness 'feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? Is your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.

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I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say \$25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



HE Astrological Diagram erected for the time of the New Moon, which occurs just after midnight between the 28th and 29th of April, serves as the basis of judgment of events for the month of May. At the time of the New Moon the 20th degree of Capricorn will be rising with Saturn just above the horizon, and the 13th degree of Scorpio will be culminating. Saturn is therefore the ruler of the scheme for the month and as he is in his own house, though retrograde, his promise for the month is better than the average. The air will be temperate and healthy with moderate and seasonable rains. The great benefic JUPITER in the 11th, most elevated, and in his own sign, in good aspect with Mercury and with Mars, the ruler of the Mid-heaven, presignifies general prosperity, faithful allies, just laws, and honor for churchmen.

Mars on the 3rd indicates some kind of disorder on a railroad, and the probable discovery of some unusual thieving or dishonesty in the postal service. Venus in the 5th indicates an increase in the birthrate, especially of female children, and a more prosperous period for theater and places of entertainment. There will be marked increase of travel and a busy time for the railways and the post office.

Saturn's presence in Capricorn is unfortunate for Mexico and for India. In the latter country troubles come thick and fast. Famine and disease there inflict unusual suffering.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR MAY, 1900.

MAY 1—Tuesday. Mischievous to the purse are the conditions of this forenoon; speculators beware of temptation. Do not invest thy means for purposes of money gains, especially in any scheme concerned with patents or patented articles; do not expect any favor from thy dealings with government officials or persons representing large corporations or organizations of any kind. As the noon hour is passed let every energy be given to thy several avocations, and particularly to those of a literary or commercial character, and such as relate to the manufacturing and mechanical enterprises; do active and constructive work, mathematical and scientific work, and the manufacture of artistic goods; the afternoon and evening are peculiarly appropriate for all kinds of mental labor and for initiating all literary work of consequence.

2—Wednesday. An especially favorable day for the elegant occupations; the artist, beginning this day, should paint successfully and profitably; art exhibitions can be begun here with profit; seek musical entertainment and have dealings in articles of adornment.

3—Thursday. Have no engagements pertaining to houses and lands during the early morning hours, but otherwise urge all thine avocations to the utmost during the day; seek favors from persons in public places and from thine employer.

4—Friday. The first part of the day promotes combustibility and may witness some bad fires, when also care should be had in handling horses, dogs and the brute creation generally; be master of thy temper and keep thy wits and a pleasant tongue; do not engage in any kind of controversy nor in any kind of quarrel; be watchful of the purse in the afternoon and do not pay out thy cash except for necessities.

5—Saturday. Vigorously employ this day for thy business engagements of consequence giving preference if any to money transactions and commercial affairs, due caution being had against haste of action or decision. Persons born about the 11th of January, 12th of July or 13th of October, of past years, are advised that this is an exciting time for them; they should keep a civil tongue, be slow to take offense, avoid everything of controversy and not be careless with fire or explosives.

6—Sunday. Not particularly promising for a Sabbath day, though the latter part of the day is noted for increased activity of mind and body, more conducive to restlessness than quiet contemplation of religious subjects.

7—Monday. Begin this day early and urge all business diligently. REGULUS particularly urges his friends in both the intellectual and artistic pursuits to press their several enterprises to the utmost and recommends the day equally for the merchant, tradesman, and traveler; for chance and dealings with printers, booksellers, stationers, real estate men and counsellors; give preference to the afternoon for house furnishing and decorating, or for landscape painting and agricultural and horticultural work of every description, also for architectural work and contracts pertaining to building and construction.

8—Tuesday. Have care what writings are signed during this day, especially if they pertain to money matters or if they oblige others; do not execute any contracts or travel unnecessarily, nor be concerned in the affairs of public organizations or corporations; the morning is more conducive to bad fires involving property losses of magnitude and unusual care should be had in this respect; do not make any application to large corporations for any favor or advantage nor have anything to do with patents, trade-marks or copyrights.

9—Wednesday. Use forenoon hours in preference to the other parts of the day; when dealing with government officials, politicians and persons in authority generally; the day as a whole is a good one for the vigorous prosecution of all established business.

10—Thursday. Musical and artistic pursuits and the elegant occupations generally suffer peculiar annoyances and embarrassments for a few days now passing and the gentle sex appear at a disadvantage or suffer in greater proportion than usual; troubles peculiar to the sex are increased and kidney troubles are accelerated; suicide from poison among them and an unusual number of violent evils to the gentle sex are induced at this time. Special caution is urged in these respects for persons born about the 24th of March, 26th of June, or the 27th of September or December of past years; they should be strictly temperate in habit, avoiding too free living, dissipation, indulgence in follies, extravagance in expenditures, either through vanity, boasting, false pride or for self-gratification. The tender sentiments prove sources of unusual embarrassment or suffering in many of the lives of those so born. The first half of the day is peculiarly evil and prompts the postponement of very important beginnings; enter into no contract concerning real estate, avoid thy landlord and await a more fitting opportunity for thy dealings with the aged and infirm; but especially is this day to be avoided for wedding, very strange and unfortunate terminations may be looked for in the matrimonial engagement now made or the marriage consummated at this time; the afternoon should be given the preference for the more important undertakings of the day.

11—Friday. Have dealings in the forenoon of this day with public officers or managing authorities or superintendents in great corporations or upon large public works, when also solicit favor from railway officials and from persons of prominence and noted for eccentricity of conduct or habit.

12—Saturday. Avoid rashness of word or act during the forenoon, nor be easily moved to wrath; the forenoon is also unusually dangerous for surgical operations, especially if performed upon the head or kidneys; the day improves as it advances, encouraging the transactions looking towards building or other improvements to real estate and is to be employed for active prosecution of all the honorable pursuits of life, the evening is less propitious for any literary work or study.

13—Sunday. The forenoon gives musical and artistic

inclinations though the day is rather indifferent in other respects.

14—Monday. More conflicting conditions than usual prevail on this day; give no offence to thy superior or employ nor seek any advantage from persons in authority.

15—Tuesday. This is the merchant's own day and an especially fortunate one for every honorable pursuit; buy goods for trade; speculate in stocks and securities, although in this extraordinary method of money getting the nativity should be more directly relied upon, and seek favors and money accommodations.

16—Wednesday. Begin early and improve every moment in the pursuits of art, music, and in the elegant avocations generally; deal in fancy goods and engage in business pertaining to decoration, adornment, dramatical goods or entertainments.

17—Thursday. Be early astir for urging the chemical, electrical and mechanical pursuits and dealings in metals and machinery, but as the noon passes put on the "caution cap" as to all dealings in houses and lands and do not be surprised if progress in general undertakings is checked for a few hours; do not expect much satisfaction from the musical, social or dramatic entertainment of the evening.

18—Friday. Use all this day for thine engagements with persons in the intellectual and literary pursuits; urge correspondence, sign contracts, engage help and travel.

19—Saturday. Use this forenoon for seeking favor from persons in authority or thy superiors in business but as the day advances put a bridle on the tongue, avoid haste in act and deed and do not engage in quarrels or controversies; surgical operations, especially upon the female anatomy, better be postponed for a season, where possible, as inflammatory conditions prevail; the day is propitious for the execution of money favors, buying goods for trade, and pushing all established commercial ventures.

20—Sunday. An indifferent day, in which conditions contribute but little to the success of pulpit efforts or religious zeal.

21—Monday. Give preference to the forenoon for the important ventures of the day, though dealings in fancy or ornamental goods should be only sparingly made and then only when absolutely necessary; the late evening and night hours are recommended for planning enterprises pertaining to buildings and mechanical and manufacturing ventures of all kinds; also mining and chemical undertakings.

22—Tuesday. Beware of very flattering promises in the schemes or enterprises which present themselves in the first half of this day, when also watch the finances and be not extravagant in expenditure; as noon is passed let every energy be devoted to affairs in thy life which relate to the decorative or artistic; to wearing apparel and the elegant pursuits and the fine arts generally.

23—Wednesday. Another of the very good days of the month for the vigorous prosecution of general business; the morning is especially recommended for the literary pursuits, the transaction of business with lawyers; the execution of deeds and all classes of mercantile contracts; applications to printers, presswriters, scientists, mathematicians and also to persons of prominence in public office.

24—Thursday. Personal applications for favor from persons of wealth or prominence are more likely to succeed in the forenoon of this day than general; the day is excellent as well for all honorable undertakings of life; make important purchases of merchandise for trade, except those of a fancy or artistic line, and have thy dealings with monied institutions in the forenoon.

25—Friday. Do not speculate or loan thy money or credit during the first half of this day; the afternoon and evening are favorable for dealings with landlords and contractors and in real estate, mining properties, lumber, wool, and coal.

26—Saturday. Be careful in speech during the morning hours and "make haste slowly" in forming judgments, for rashness will now work great injury; the afternoon is the best part of the day and should be vigorously employed forwarding all the elegant pursuits and those portions of thine affairs that relate to the apparel or the decorative or artistic features.

27—Sunday. A favorable day for success of pulpit efforts.

28—Monday. Total Eclipse of the Sun. Begin the day early; do correspondence and urge business with vigor; deal with booksellers, publishers, stationers, and all engaged in the intellectual pursuits. The day, however, is less propitious for financial transactions and does not encourage the buying of goods for sale, nor should much advantage be expected from applications to bank or other monied institutions for funds; see that losses are not suffered in any of thy money dealings and be careful not to bind thyself security for others, or loan thy means or credit.

29—Tuesday. An indifferent day in nearly all respects and caution is suggested against the execution of deeds or writing and also against correspondence of importance; troubles with correspondence and through written obligations are more likely to develop here.

30—Wednesday. Be cautious about signing any contract pertaining to houses or lands on this day, nor should dealings be had in such commodities as coal, iron, wood, lumber, lead, wool, or grain; the afternoon invites activity in such undertakings as are concerned with machinery and chemicals; deal with cutlers, surgeons, chemists, bakers, barbers, tailors, cattle-traders, tanners, carpenters, and military men; when also consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry and with electrical apparatus.

31—Thursday. A superior day for the pursuit of art, music and the elegant avocations generally; deal in fancy goods and engage in decoration and adornment, but let all be prudent in the pursuits of pleasure; have no transactions relating to book publishing nor with reference to copyright or patents; correspondence is best deferred a little.

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I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhea, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

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Write for booklet on the Drink Habit and its POSITIVE CURE.
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Prof. Laborde's Marvelous French Cure for Lost Manhood.

FIVE DAYS' TRIAL TREATMENT

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Send today for the free five days' trial treatment. If it helps you, more of the medicine can be purchased. If it does not help, no harm is done and no money has been paid out. You can send your name in the full knowledge that it will be kept from all. The "CALTHOS" department of our business is strictly confidential. Address applications for trial treatment, etc., to

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Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will mail the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of forty-four first-class tools, as shown in the above cut, viz: 1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boys' work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoemaker; 1 shoemaker; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 stitching awl handle; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails 3-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for balling, etc.; 1 copy directions for soldering all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately would cost between \$7.00 and \$9.00. You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harness and rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all harnesses and fling saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are full sized, practical, neat and cheap. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for \$3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs., will be sent by freight complete as above described for only \$1.62. Includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 6 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The Cape Nome Gold Fields.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



As EVERYBODY, two or three years ago, was talking about the Klondike, so everybody this year will be talking about Cape Nome, for this new gold region promises to be richer in the yellow metal than the Klondike was. In the East, that is east of the Mississippi river, the people have a great many other things to think about, as well as being very far from the center of activity, but all along the Pacific coast one can hardly hear of anything else except Cape Nome. Gold was discovered there in 1898, but owing to its distance, and there being no easy way to get there except by ships, it took some time for the news of the discovery to be distributed. However, good news flies faster than any other kind, and last year the crowds began moving in that direction. They came by ship from points along the Pacific coast of the United States and Alaska, and also down the Yukon river from the Dawson country and other mining sections of the interior, and before the summer was over, it was estimated that as many as five thousand people had arrived in the neighborhood of Cape Nome. Of course with the coming of the people organization was necessary, and it began by the establishment of a post office as a center, and around it, extending along the shore, a town grew up which became known as Nome City. This name at first was applied only to that part of the town immediately around the post office, the western part of the place being called Anvil City, after a mountain several miles inland which looked something like a great anvil. The name did not stick, however, and before the summer was over, Anvil City was swallowed up in Nome City or Nome, as it is usually called.

Nome City is situated on the north shore of Norton Sound, between the river Nome on the east, which empties into the sound at Cape Nome, and Snake river on the west, both being small streams coming down from the mountains. Tributary to these streams are a great many smaller branches, bearing all kinds of names, and along the banks of all of them gold has been found in greater or less quantities. The discovery of gold was made on Anvil creek, and very rich claims exist on that stream. The country about the gold diggings is absolutely without trees, but it is pleasant to the eye, as the whole earth is covered with beautifully green grass and moss. The mountains, lying back to the north, are not rugged, but are more like hills, and are green to their summits with this same grass and moss. Norton Sound is about one hundred miles wide here, and to the south and east a distance of one hundred and thirty-two miles is St. Michael, which in the Klondike excitement was the point to which passengers and freight came on their way to the Klondike up the river Yukon, which empties into Behring Sea about seventy miles southwest of St. Michael. During the past summer most of the shipping for Cape Nome came by way of St. Michael, but this year ships will go directly to Nome. It has no harbor whatever, the water is very shallow, and one of the great problems to be solved is how to get goods and passengers from the ships to the shore when the water is at all rough. It is no easy task even in quiet weather, but when the winds blow, and they blow quite frequently and often with great severity, landing is impossible. Last year boats going over from St. Michael could promise no regularity, because they would have to wait sometimes for three or four days, before being able to get their cargoes ashore. It cost a pretty penny, too, for passengers at such times to get to land besides the risk of their lives, and I know of three men who paid four dollars and a half to be rowed ashore from their ship, which was not half a mile from land. Men who were willing to take great risks owned these small shore boats, and they made large sums carrying passengers. They sometimes dumped themselves and their passengers into the surf, but they scrambled out of the cold water, got some whiskey inside of them and some dry clothes on the out-



THE CAPE NOME REGION.

side and were ready to try the rough water again. Several cargoes of freight on lighters have not been so fortunate, and have been entirely lost in the surf. So it will be seen that the enthusiastic gold digger, even after he has come thousands of miles to his Land of Promise, is more or less likely to lose all on the very threshold of his labors.

Gold was discovered at Nome by three Laplanders, Lindberg, Lindbloom and Brynston,

who had come to Alaska as herders of the reindeer brought over to this country by the government, and they were at work at the reindeer station on Golovin bay, but the gold mining in that region incited them to do some prospecting themselves, and one day on Anvil creek they "struck it rich." At first they did little as the weather was too cold, but in the following summer they worked successfully and had their friends come in and they took up all the claims they could get. The excitement was beginning to spread when one day in July last a man found gold in the sand on the beach and then the place went wild and everybody who could get tools came down to the shore and went to work on his own account as if it were free territory. At one time before the cold weather stopped the digging it was estimated that fifteen hundred miners were digging along the beach and taking out thirty thousand dollars a day. Whether these figures are correct or not, it is a known fact that the owners of claims up the creeks who were paying their men ten dollars a day, or a dollar an hour, lost nearly all their help, as the men quit working for wages as they could do better on the beach. It was the greatest "poor man's diggings" ever heard of, and as soon as the news of it got out a great rush set in coming chiefly from the up-Yukon district as there were many miners in that section who wanted to get out, and it was easy to come down the river and go over to Nome. The town now went ahead with a great rush and everybody had money. Labor was from ten to fifteen dollars a day, board of the simplest kind was a dollar a meal, and a plank to sleep on was a dollar a night. Three decent meals and a decent place to sleep, if they could be had, were worth ten dollars a day. Gambling dens, dance houses, variety shows, gin mills and all kinds of vice prevailed and the town was a fine example of what money can do when there is plenty of it. Lumber at a hundred and twenty-five dollars a thousand was brought over from St. Michael and houses began springing up on the site of tents, and when the last ship left the city in November it had about twenty-five hundred people mostly under roof, and was filled with enthusiasm over what would take place when the season of 1900 opened. What has happened there during the past five months nobody knows for no word has come out. The winters last from November to June, and the cold is intense, the whole of Norton Sound being frozen over extending far down into Behring Sea. This vast field of ice must disappear before ships can get in from the outside, and it depends upon the season when this will be. Ordinarily navigation is open in June, but it has been known to remain closed until July.

It is expected that thirty thousand people will go to Cape Nome this summer from all parts of the United States, and already railroads and ship companies are making their preparations for the great rush. As many of the readers of COMFORT may be thinking of going to try their fortunes, possibly a little direction may be of value. Cape Nome is at least twenty-five hundred miles from the nearest point in the United States proper, (Seattle) and there are two ways of reaching it. One of these is by steamer direct, going by way of Dutch Harbor, and the other is by the inland passage to Skagway, thence by rail to Lake Bennett, thence down the Yukon, thence by steamer across Norton Sound. From ten to twelve days are required to make the trip by sea, and about two weeks by land. First class fare last season to St. Michael was one hundred dollars, with twenty additional from St. Michael over, and second class was seventy-five. No figures have been stated for this season, but they will be higher, though there are so many vessels going that competition may keep prices reasonable. The fare by land is much more, say \$225, though it varies, and the land route may this season compete with the sea for the Cape Nome business. The points in the United States from which sailings will be made are San Francisco, Cal., Portland, Ore., Tacoma and Seattle, Wash., and the Southern Pacific, the Union and Central Pacific, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern are the railroads leading to the points of departure. Seattle by long odds is the choice of starting points and four-fifths of the travel is from there. Nobody can say exactly when navigation will open, but Seattle newspapers have for months contained advertisements of ships sailing as early as May 10th. Right here begins the gold hunter's risk for he may be held back a month by bad weather. At the same time it is important that he get there soon, not only because the season is short, but because others will get ahead of him and take the best things.

And now as to claims. There are none to be had except by purchase, because everything for forty miles along the shore and a dozen miles back into the country has been taken long ago. Claims or parts of claims may be bought, however, and these sometimes prove fortunes to their owners. Just what the beach diggings will amount to next season no one can say. It is generally believed that gold may be found along the entire coast for a hundred and fifty miles, in which event there will be a good chance for everybody. But all the money is not made in gold digging and the shrewd trader with a little money and a whole lot of knowledge of what is needed by the miners can feather his nest well. He must find out though before he tries, if somebody is not there ahead of him. Ship load after ship load of all kinds of supplies are being got ready in Seattle and Tacoma and Portland and Frisco to make the rush as soon as possible to meet the demand that must exist among those twenty-five hundred people who have been shut up all winter on canned goods, to say nothing of the thousands who are going there depending on somebody to provide for them, and if any man in the East expects to do anything in trading at Nome he will have to get up very early in the morning. A much safer way would be for everybody to remain at home and not bother about the fortune that they might make, but of course nobody will take good advice until it is too late.

As to the fortunes made at Nome, it is estimated that four millions of dollars in gold came out last season, and this was pretty fairly distributed, as such things go. The Lindberg claims have led all others, and it was reported that for a time they were yielding a thousand dollars an hour, which is no doubt an exaggeration, though the properties are enormously valuable. Hundreds of men have come out with from a thousand to five or six thousand each in dust, and several fortunes have been made in trading and in contracting. In conclusion it may be said that there is nothing quite so pleasing as gain, but generally a man will be better off to remain in the States.



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